

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #457

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

13th Pan American School Championship (October 13-19)

A FIDE school competition is another form of youth championship, except the two-year age groups are based on odd numbers rather than even (in this case under 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 rather than U8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18). And this was also a Continental championship, limited to those countries which are part of the Americas. Canada sent a team of fourteen players to Asuncion, Paraguay for the tournament including Aiden and Andrew Yin from this province, also Zhihan (Samuel) Xu, formerly a denizen of North Vancouver (he now lives in Florida). All the Canadians were ranked in the top ten in each of their sections, so there were a number of prize winners from the competition. Zhihan and William Bi placed first in the U9 and U11 sections respectively, Navika Renganathan (U7G) and Tony Lu (U17) finished second, and WCMs Lucy Gao (U15G) and Rachel Zihan Wang (U17G) were third. Aiden and Andrew were both part of the U11 section, Aiden placed sixth and Andrew tenth. Congratulations to all! [Standings](#)

18th SPICE Cup (October 13-18)

Now in its eighteenth year, the SPICE (Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence) Cup is an annual event providing strong competition and norm possibilities to aspiring players. Sponsored by Webster University and held at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Chesterfield (a suburb of St. Louis), the nine-round tournament attracted sixty participants including a dozen GMs and eleven IMs. There were only two Canadians in attendance this year, IM Anthony Atanasov from Ontario and NM Zachary Hankun Liu (right) from BC. GMs Illya Nyzhnyk (Ukraine) and Viktor Gazik (Slovakia) tied for first with 7.0 points, with Nyzhnyk winning the trophy after drawing a final Armageddon game with Black. Tied for second were Americans FM Grayson Rorrer (who achieved both IM and GM norms) and Brandon Jacobsen a half-point back. Anthony scored 5.5 points, Zachary 4.0. [Standings](#)



Liu, Zachary Hankun (2028) – Wang, Tianqi (2331) [A11] SPICE Cup op 18th Chesterfield (1.20), 13.10.2024

1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Bf5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 Qc7 6.Nc3 e6 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0–0 a6 9.d3 Bd6 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.dxe4 Nge7 13.Be3 0–0 14. Rac1 Qb8 15.Nd2 Bb4 16.Nc4 b5 17.Nb6 Ra7 18.Nd5 exd5 19.Bxa7 Qxa7 20.exd5 Nd4 21.Qxb4 Ne2+ 22.Kh1 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 Qd7 24.d6 Nf5 25.Rd1 Rd8 26.Qa5 Nxd6 27.Qxa6 h5 28.Qc6 Qe7 29.Kg1 h4 30.Bf1 Nf5 31.Rxd8+ Qxd8 32.Qxb5 Nd4 33.Qd3 Qb6 34.b3 Qf6 35.Qe3 g5 36.h3 Nf5 37.Qf3 hxg3 38.fxg3 Qe5 39.Kh2 Nd4 40.Qf2 f5 41.Bg2 f4 42.b4 Qf6 43.a4 Qd6 44.a5 Qxb4 45.gxf4 Nf5 46.a6 1–0

PNWCC IM Norm October 2024 (October 11-13, 18-20)

The Pacific Northwest Chess Center, based in Washington State, has been offering an ongoing series of norm events and the latest edition, held on two consecutive weekends in Bellevue, included from this province FM Ethan Song. The overall winner was FM Zoey Tang with 6.5 points; according to your editor's calculator she made an IM norm and also a WGM norm, all other things being equal. The two GMs in the field, Dimitri Komarov and Vladimir Georgiev, tied for second with 6.0/9; Ethan tied for fourth with IM Joseph Levine and FM Stephen Willy but beat both of them.

[Standings](#)

Song, Ethan (2313) – Willy, Stephen (2308) [B29] PNWCC Monthly IM Norm RR - Oct 2024 Bellevue (5.4), 13.10.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nxd5 exd5 6.d4 Nc6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Qxd5 d6 9.exd6 Qb6 10.Qe4+ Be6 11.Qh4 Bxd6 12.c3 Be7 13.Qf4 Bc5 14.Ng5 0–0–0 15.Be2 Nd4 16.cxd4 Rxd4 17.Qf3 Bb4+ 18.Kf1 Bg4 19.Qxg4+ Rxg4 20.Bxg4+ f5 21.Be2 Re8 22.Bf4 Qd4 23.Rc1+ Kd8 24.g3 Qxb2 25.Rd1+ Kc8 26.Rc1+ Kd8 27.Bh5 g6 28.Bf3 Re7 29.Kg2 Qxa2 30.Rhd1+ Rd7 31.Rxd7+ Kxd7 32.Rc7+ Ke8 33.Rxb7 Bc5 34.Bc6+ Kd8 35.Nf7+ 1–0

Fraser Valley Rapid 13 (October 5)

The latest Fraser Valley Rapid attracted ninety-six players in three sections. Winning the [Open Section](#) were a couple of familiar faces, CM Jorge Nunez Asencio and NM Zachary Liu, who shared first with 5.5 points each, while alone in third was NM Brian McLaren. In the [U1400 Section](#) Sherwin Garcia claimed the first prize just ahead of Jason Ji and Jona Kaets on 4.5/5; and Beck Wang was first in the [U1300 Section](#) while Zilang (Timson) Chen, Kanish Raj Sathish Raj, and Tyler Hun tied for second.

Okanagan Valley Rapid 1 (September 28)

Chess has been on the upswing in the Okanagan of late: there have been a number of events in Salmon Arm, there is an ongoing club at the West Kelowna Library (ORL Branch), 3731 Old Okanagan Highway which meets every Wednesday 5:00-8:00pm, and now the first in a series of Rapid events held at the same location. Sponsored by the Fraser Valley Chess Academy with assistance from Craig Bacon and the Salmon Arm Chess Club, this inaugural event attracted almost forty players in two sections, many of them new to CFC-rated chess. The [Open Section](#) was



won by Ameet Kumar Dalal with 4.5/5; his draw in the last round was with Wayne Kort, a player well-known in local chess circles some forty years ago. Craig Bacon and Andrew Court tied for second, both losing to Ameet. The U1300 Section saw a three-way tied for first between Karim Elbably, Ankit Kundra, and Dylan Lively, all with 4.0 points. Watch for more rapid events coming up on [November 9](#) and [December 7](#).

Quesnel Rapid Open (September 28)

Chess is also on the increase in the Cariboo: the [Quesnel Chess Nuggets](#) have been meeting on Friday nights at K-Max Games and Videos, and there have been several tournaments. Here is Kirk Morgan's report on the second one:

First: Shridham Sharma from Prince George with 5.0 points. Second: Nikon Miedviediev from Quesnel with 4.0 points. Third: Justin Aney, Max Rago, and Kirk Morgan (all Quesnel) with 3.0 points. There were nine players in total! [The first last May had five.] We all had a fun time and made some new Chess friends! Thank you Shridham for coming from Prince George to join our group. Thank you to the other eight players that were able to come and play chess. A shout out to K-Max Games and Videos who supplied the venue for the Chess Tournament. They are great supporters of the Quesnel Chess Nuggets. Chess equipment supplied by Neighbourhood Small Grants. [Standings](#)

Chateau Victoria Rapid II (September 22) by Paul Leblanc

Thirty-nine players competed in the most recent CFC-rated Rapid tournament in Victoria on Sunday, September 22. The 25 + 5 time control allowed five rounds to fit nicely into a seven-hour event including an hour for lunch. The venue was the swanky Chateau Victoria Hotel. For the third straight rapid tournament, Peter Mingrone cruised to a perfect score. Ryan Lavis, playing in his first



Peter Mingrone (left) vs local chess coach Amir Tirehkar in round 5

rated tournament came second at 4.5. Top U1400 was Emilian Holmgren at 3.5. Top U1000 was shared between three players, Al Hui, Marc Moisan and Jayden Vu, all 2.0-3.0. The next Rapid event is planned for Sunday, November 24 at the Elk Lake Holiday Inn. [Standings](#)

RCC Elite Championship #3 (September 22)



Last round: Zachary Liu - Ryan Yang in the foreground, next to them Bindi Cheng - Arpad Worya

This Richmond Chess Champions event actually consisted of two parallel events, one CFC rated for both adults and juniors, the other CMA rated for juniors alone. The top-heavy [Open Section](#) included three masters who all tied for first: IM Bindi Cheng, NM Zachary Liu, and CM Jingyun

(Ryan) Yang. Joanne Wangluo was the Best Girl. Rio Vilches was perfect in winning the [U1300 Section](#), May Wangluo was second, and Sky Cui and Lucas Yu tied for third. In the [CMA event](#) Andy Zheng and Adam He won the U800 and U500 sections with 4.0/4 scores, ahead of Tyler Hun, Ethan Lin, and Haochen Tong and Eden Ho, Nicole Jayawardena, and Arin Aloke respectively.

45th Chess Olympiad (September 11-22)

Held in Budapest, Hungary, this year's olympiad was the largest ever with 188 teams in the [open](#) and 169 in the [women's](#) event, this without the participation of Russia or Belarus. Actually another twenty teams were registered, mainly from African countries, but for whatever reason (financial or visa issues) did not arrive on site. Canada had one team in each section; playing in the open were GM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux, IMs Raja Panjwani and Shiyam Thavandiran, GM Razvan Preotu, and IM Nikolay Noritsyn, while WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet, WIMs Yunshan Li, Bich Ngoc Pham, and Svitlana Demchenko and WFM Oksana Golubeva formed the women's team. Captains were Victor Plotkin and Zbynek Hracek respectively.

Budapest turned into a triumph for the two Indian teams who both won gold. Their youthful open team was ranked second at the start of the eleven-round event but absolutely dominated the competition, giving up only a single drawn match enroute to a final score of 21/22, while their closest rivals finished on 17 points (2 points for a match win, 1 for a drawn match). The team was led by Gukesh Dommaraju on board one (9.0/10, performance rating of 3056) and Arjun Erigaisi on board three (10.0/11, performance of 2968), both winning their respective board prizes. The top-ranked U.S. team had to be content with second place on tiebreak while Uzbekistan, champions of the Chennai Olympiad, were third – they both tied with China, Serbia, and Armenia with 17 points. India were the top-ranked team in the women's division; they ran into trouble in rounds eight and nine but recovered to defeat China and Azerbaijan in the final two rounds to claim gold with 19.0/22. Kazakhstan were alone in second on 18 points, and the U.S.A. were third on tiebreak over Spain, Armenia, and Georgia, they all scored 17 points.

The two Canadian teams both finished above their initial rankings. The [open team](#) was ranked fiftieth at the start but finished in thirty-fifth place with 14 points. The team beat the Czech Republic and Greece and drew with Norway (Magnus did not play that round), Turkiye, and Vietnam. GM Razvan Preotu had the ninth best result on board four, 7.0/9 for a performance rating of 2631. The [women's team](#) initial ranking was twentieth but a strong finish with lopsided wins against Australia, Colombia (4.0-0.0!), and Lithuania left the team in twentieth place in the final standings on 15 points. WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet had the thirteenth best performance (8.5/11) on board one, WFM Oksana Golubeva was tenth best on board 5 (5.5/8). Penny Pham (right) had three wins, four draws and only a single loss (to GM Irina Krush) for 5.0/8. Her last three games, including a draw against Bulgarian IM/WGM Nurgyul Salimova (a participant in the Womens' Candidates tournament in Toronto earlier this year),



were all lengthy, averaging over ninety moves – especially in a team competition playing for your country, every single half point is important.

Salimova, Nurgul (2412) – Pham, Bich Ngoc (2199) [D02] FIDE Chess Olympiad 45th wom Budapest (7), 18.09.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 cxd4 7.exd4 Nh5 8.Be3 Bd6 9.Bd3 Nf4 10.Bxf4 Bxf4 11.0–0 0–0 12.Re1 Bd7 13.g3 Bh6 14.Nf1 g6 15.h4 f6 16.Ne3 Ne7 17.c4 Bxe3 18.Rxe3 dxc4 19.Bxc4 Nd5 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Qb3 Bc6 22.Rae1 Qd7 23.Re7 Qf5 24.Qe3 Rf7 25.Rxf7 Kxf7 26.Qh6 Qh5 27.Qf4 Qf5 28.Qc7+ Qd7 29.Qa5 a6 30.Kg2 Re8 31.Rxe8 Qxe8 32.Qc7+ Qe7 33.Qb8 Qe4 34.Qc7+ Kg8 35.b3 h6 36.Qc8+ Kg7 37.g4 Qf4 38.Qe6 Qe4 39.Qxe4 dxe4 40.Ne1 g5 41.Kg3 f5 42.gxf5 Kf6 43.Ng2 gxh4+ 44.Nxh4 Kg5 45.f6 Bd5 46.Ng2 b5 47.Ne3 Bg8 48.b4 h5 49.d5 Bf7 50.a3 Bg8 51.d6 h4+ 52.Kh2 Kxf6 53.Ng4+ Ke6 54.d7 Ke7 55.Kh3 Be6 56.Kxh4 Bxd7 57.Kg5 Ke6 58.Kf4 Bc6 59.Ne3 Bb7 60.Nf1 Kd5 61.Nd2 Kd4 62.Nb3+ Kc3 63.Nc5 Bc8 64.Kxe4 Kb2 65.Kd4 Kxa3 66.Kc3 Ka2 67.f4 Ka3 68.Nb3 Ka4 69.Nc5+ Ka3 70.Nd3 Ka4 71.Ne5 a5 72.Nc6 axb4+ 73.Nxb4 Bh3 74.Nd5 ½–½

Chirivi C, Jenny Astrid (2120) - Pham, Bich Ngoc (2199) [E33] FIDE Chess Olympiad 45th wom Budapest (10), 21.09.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.e3 0–0 7.Be2 e5 8.0–0 Bxc3 9.Qxc3 Ne4 10.Qb3 Qe7 11.d5 Nb8 12.Qc2 f5 13.Ne1 a5 14.f3 Nf6 15.b3 c6 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Bb2 c5 18.Rd1 Be6 19.Nd3 Nc6 20.Nc1 a4 21.Rd2 axb3 22.axb3 Ne8 23.f4 e4 24.Rfd1 Nb4 25.Qb1 Qb7 26.Bf1 Bf7 27.Be2 h6 28.g4 Be6 29.h3 Qd7 30.Kh2 Qe7 31.Rg1 Qh4 32.Rg3 Ra7 33.Bd1 Kh7 34.gxf5 Bxf5 35.Bg4 g6 36.Bc3 Nf6 37.Bxf5 gxf5 38.Rdg2 d5 39.cxd5 Nbx5 40.Be5 Nh5 41.Rg4 Qe1 42.Re2 Qf1 43.Qc2 Rc8 44.Rg1 Qf3 45.Qd2 Rd7 46.Qe1 Rg8 47.Rxg8 Kxg8 48.b4 cxb4 49.Nb3 Ndx4 50.exf4 Qxb3 51.Rg2+ Kh7 52.Qc1 Qd5 53.Qc8 Ng7 54.Qf8 Qg8 55.Qxb4 Qe8 56.Qb6 Ne6 57.Qa5 Nf8 58.Bc3 Qe6 59.Rb2 e3 60.Qa8 Rf7 61.Qg2 Ng6 62.Qf3 Qe4 63.Kg3 Qd3 64.Rb7 Kg8 65.Rxf7 Kxf7 66.Qb7+ Ne7 67.Qb3+ Qd5 68.Qb6 e2 69.Kf2 Qc4 70.Qf6+ Ke8 71.Qe5 Kd7 72.Ke1 Qd3 73.Ba5 Nd5 74.Qg7+ Kc6 75.Bd2 Qf3 76.Qg6+ Kc5 77.Qg1+ Kc4 78.Ba5 Nxf4 79.Qg8+ Kb5 80.Qb8+ Kxa5 81.Qa7+ Kb5 82.Qd7+ Kc4 83.Qa4+ Kc5 84.Qa5+ Kd6 85.Qd8+ Ke5 86.Qh8+ Ke6 87.Qe8+ Kf6 88.Qf8+ Kg6 89.Qe8+ Kg5 90.Qe7+ Kh5 0–1

Lulu Island Chess Fall Rapid and Blitz (September 21)

The latest [Lulu Island Chess](#) rapid event attracted seventy-three participants to their usual site, the Lounge of the Bethany Baptist Church in Richmond. The forty-player [Open Section](#) included nine rated over 1900 (Quick ratings, which often differ considerably from Regular ratings) and unsurprisingly the top two finished at the head of the crosstable as IM Raymond Kaufman and CM Jorge Nunez Asencio tied for first with 5.0 points each. What did raise eyebrows was the results of two of those who tied for third. NM Zachary Liu is a known quantity, but alongside him on 4.5 points were Jofrel Landingin and Justin Gao, rated 1584 and 1523 respectively. Justin is a junior whose Quick rating has yet to reach his actual playing strength, while at least for this event Jofrel returned to his previous A-class level – his performance rating was the highest in the tournament at 2246.

The [U1400 Section](#) of thirty-three players was won by Sion Park who gave up a last-round draw to finish with 5.5 points, a half-point ahead of Jesse Law and Lucas Chen. And there was also an adjunct [Blitz tournament](#) which included many of the same players from the Rapid, forty-one in



total. Here IM Raymond Kaufman was again victorious, this time on his own as CM Jorge Nunez Ascencio gave up an additional draw and finished second; Leo Qu was third.

BCCF Rating Policy

BC Arbiters and Organizers:

The recent boost to FIDE ratings has created a substantial gap between CFC and FIDE ratings and is causing difficulties for events where the highest rating of a player is used for section assignment, prizes, play-up eligibility and pairings. The Chess Federation of Canada is considering action to bring CFC and FIDE ratings closer to par but it will take some time. In the interim, the CFC has approved the following guidance for BCCF events.

BCCF Guidance on the Use of Ratings

- 1. The primary rating used for section assignment, play-up eligibility, pairings and prizes is the player's CFC rating provided that rating is current.**
- 2. If the player does not have a current CFC rating but does have a current FIDE, USCF or FQE rating then that rating may be used. The Arbiter will decide if a given rating is 'current'. In general, "current" means 10 games played in the 12 months preceding the event under consideration.**
- 3. Conversion of other ratings to CFC equivalent will be done at par.**

Paul Leblanc
President, BCCF

BC CHAMPIONSHIP (October 11-14) by Paul Leblanc (all photos by Victoria Doknjas)

This year's BC Championship took place at Capilano University's Lonsdale campus, a lovely site on the North Vancouver waterfront surrounded by marine activity, modern architecture and trendy restaurants. The site was generously donated by the university and we are most grateful to Professor Eduardo Azmitia and Maria Valiouk who negotiated the use of this facility. This year's field included two international masters (Nguyen and Kaufman) and four previous BC Champions (the Doknjas brothers, Kaufman and MacKinnon). First prize was \$1,000 and a travel grant of \$1,000 to attend the next Canadian Chess Championship.



IM Van Thanh Nguyen, Johan Aljo, NM Keith MacKinnon, IM Raymond Kaufman, FM Neil Doknjas, FM John Doknjas, Leo Qu (missing NM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1		Doknjas, John	2406	*	½	½	½	1	1	1	½	5.0 / 7
2		Kaufman, Ray	2297	½	*	1	½	½	½	½	1	4.5 / 7
3		Doknjas, Neil	2377	½	0	*	½	1	1	½	1	4.5 / 7
4		Nguyen, Van Thanh	2473	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	4.0 / 7
5		Yang, Jingyun (Ryan)	2305	0	½	0	½	*	1	1	0	3.0 / 7
6		Aljo, Johan	2111	0	½	0	½	0	*	1	1	3.0 / 7
7		Qu, Leo	2214	0	½	½	½	0	0	*	½	2.0 / 7
8		MacKinnon, Keith	2302	½	0	0	0	1	0	½	*	2.0 / 7

Progressive scores

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Doknjas, J	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.0
2 Kaufman	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.5
3 Doknjas, N	0.5	1.5	2.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.5
4 Nguyen	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0
5 Yang	0.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
6 Aljo	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	3.0
7 Qu	0.5	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0
8 MacKinnon	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

[By the end of the third round half the field was tied for the lead with Kaufman and Qu close behind; newcomer Aljo and previous champion MacKinnon had lost their first two games and were essentially out of the running. Round four saw Neil Doknjas grab the sole lead at Yang's expense while the other contenders drew. In round five Kaufman, after four draws, beat Neil which allowed John Doknjas to take the lead, just ahead of Kaufman, Neil Doknjas, and Nguyen; Yang lost the second of three games in a row to MacKinnon to drop out of contention. The last two rounds saw

the top positions stay the same; despite winning two games in a row Kaufman was either too tired or decided not to tempt fate and agreed a ten-move draw with John Doknjas, leaving John as this year's BC Champion – congratulations! Kaufman shared second place with Neil Doknjas, while top-ranked Nguyen was clear fourth – he won in the first round but drew the rest of his games. After some initial jitters(?) the first-timer Aljo Johan came back to finish with a respectable 3.0 points - editor]

Doknjas, John (2406) – Qu, Leo (2214) [E94] BC ch 107th North Vancouver (5.1), 13.10.2024
[John Doknjas]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 Nbd7!? **6.Be2** If 6.e5!? dxe5 7.dxe5 Ng4 8.e6 Nde5 9.exf7+ Nxf7 10.Qb3+/=, White's advantage is slight. **6...0–0 7.0–0 e5 8.Qc2 Qe7 9.Be3 h6 10.Rad1** Allowing the bishop to tuck back into c1, should Black play ...Ng4. The rook also stands ready to fight on the open d-file, should dxe5 or ...exd4 be played. White also has the option to open the centre with 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Nd5 Qd8 12.h3, with an advantage. **10...c6 11.d5** Generally in these structures, ...c6 is well met by d5. Now if the black pawn stays on c6, one cookie cutter plan for White is b4, dxc6, and b5. **11...c5 12.Bd2** Retreating the bishop so that a potential ...Ng4 doesn't come with tempo. This position was also one that was almost in my prep, with the sole difference of the rook being on d1 instead of a1. **12...Nh7 13.Qc1** Aiming to provoke either ...h5 or ...g5, weakening Black's pawn structure. **13...h5 13...f5!?** is narrowly the engine's top choice, getting some degree of compensation for the pawn after 14.exf5 gxf5 15.Bxh6 f4 16.Bxg7 Qxg7 **14.g3** Giving me the possibility of answering ...f5 with Nh4. The pawn on g3 also prepares to support a potential f4 push down the road. **14...Ndf6 14...f5?** runs into 15.Nh4 Qf6 16.exf5 gxf5 (or 16...g5 17.Ng6 Rf7 18.Bxh5 Qxf5 19.g4!) 17.Bxh5 **15.Kg2** Stopping ...Bh3 and preparing Ng1. **15...Kh8 16.Rde1 Ng8 17.Bd3 Bg4**



18.Ng1 Up to this point I had played quite fast, since I was familiar with this general plan of maneuvering the pieces this way from my prep. Now White is ready to push f4 soon. **18...Rae8 19.f3 19.f4** The engine says this is a bit better. The bishop is misplaced on g4, and 19...exf4 20.gxf4 Qh4 does not threaten White, e.g., 21.Nb5 **19...Bc8 20.Kh1** Making the king safe. The moment Black prepares something or weakens himself, I'm ready to push f4. **20...a6 21.a3 Bf6** Black wants ...Bg5. **22.f4 Qd8 23.b4** Attacking on the queenside as well. Now the tensions between f4–e5 and b4–c5 give White many possibilities. In both cases, White can trade, push, or leave things as they are. Since there are three options on each side, that gives 9 possibilities that Black has to prepare for. **23...b6 24.Bc2** Preparing a possible Ba4, which may

may be played in conjunction with any of the aforementioned possibilities. This leaves Black with even more plans to parry. **24.Nd1** The engine likes this, aiming to move the knight to f2 or e3. Then, one plan could be preparing h3 and maybe g4 eventually. **24...exf4** The engine gives 24...cxb4 25.axb4 Qc7 26.Bd3 Bg7 as the best resistance, but White still has around a +1.5 edge. **25.gxf4 Bg7 26.bxc5 bxc5** Now Black wants to play ... f5, aiming to chip away at my centre.



27.e5 A thematic but poor move that blows most of my advantage. 27.Re2! prepares to meet 27...f5 with 28.e5 (or 28.Rg2 right away) 28...dxe5 29.fxe5 Bxe5 30.Nf3 Bg7 31.Rg2 attacking the newly weakened g6-pawn. White's other rook can also join the party by shuffling over to g1. White is down a pawn but has an overwhelming advantage.; 27.Nf3 is also good, since now ...f5 runs into e5. I didn't want to give Black's bishop access to g4 and h3, but analysis shows this doesn't really free Black's position: 27...Bh3 (27...Bg4 28.Ne2! Bxf3+ (or 28...h4 29.Neg1 h3 30.Ba4 Re7 31.Bc3 , and White is much better.) 29.Rxf3 f5 30.Rg3) 28.Rf2 Ngf6 29.Nd1 Ng4 30.Rfe2 White remains in control, despite Black's active minor pieces. **27...dxe5** **28.f5 Ne7** I missed this rejoinder when pushing e5. I still felt I was a bit better due to my active pieces and

the isolated c5-pawn, but not as much as I was before. The engine actually gives an evaluation of around 0.14, but Black has to be accurate. **29.fxg6 fxg6 30.Be3 Rxf1 31.Rxf1 Nf5** A natural move and the main one I considered. 31...Bf5 32.Bxc5 Qc8 is one of the engine's top choices, going after the c5-bishop and c4-pawn.; 31...e4 is also engine-approved: 32.Nxe4 Nxd5! 33.Bxc5 (33.cxd5? Qxd5 gives Black an advantage.) 33...Nc3= **32.Bxc5 Qh4 32...Ng5!** would have stopped White's knight from settling onto e4. **33.Ne4** Now I am better again. My pieces achieve harmony and I have two connected passers. **33...Bh6 33...Nf6** was Black's best bet, but the endgame after 34.Qe1 Qxe1 35.Rxe1 is good for White. **34.Qe1 Qd8 35.Nf3 Bf4 36.Ba4 Rg8 37.Qc3** Not the most accurate. 37.Nd6! Nxd6 38.Nxe5 was the best continuation. **37...Qc7 37...Nf6!** is a strong counter, preventing 38.Nxe5 due to 38... Nxe4. Following 38.Bc2 Nxe4 39.Bxe4 Kh7, White is clearly better but Black's position may be tenable.



38.Bd6! A combination that I had planned when bringing my queen to c3. **38...Nxd6 39.Nxe5 Nf6** Black has other moves too, but in all of them the tactics are working for White. **40.Nxd6 Nxd5 41.Qd4 Bxe5 42.Qxe5+ 1-0**

Doknjas, Neil (2377) – Yang, Jingyun (Ryan) (2305) [B47] BC ch 107th North Vancouver (4.3), 13.10.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.f4 a6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 d5 9.Qe2 d4 10.Nd1 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Qxd2 c5 13.b3 Nf6 14.0–0 0–0 15.Nb2 Bd7 16.Rae1 Bb5 17.a4 Bxd3 18.Qxd3 Nd7 19.Nc4 Nb6 20.Nd2 f6 21.a5 Nd7 22.Nc4 Nb8 23.Nb6 Ra7 24.Qc4 Re8 25.f5 Nd7 26.Nxd7 Qxd7 27.fxe6 Qxe6 28.Qxc5 Qd7 29.Qc4+ Kh8 30.e5 fxe5 31.Rxe5 Raa8 32.Rxe8+ Rxe8 33.Qxa6 h6 34.Qg6 Qe7 35.Qd3 Rf8 36.Rxf8+ Qxf8 37.Qxd4 Qe7 38.Qd2 Qc5+ 39.Kh1 Qa3 40.h3 g5 41.b4 Kh7 42.Qd3+ 1–0

Kaufman, Ray (2297) – Doknjas, Neil (2377) [B30] BC ch 107th North Vancouver (5.3), 13.10.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Qe2 e5 5.0–0 Bd6 6.d3 h6 7.c3 Bc7 8.Be3 d6 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 0–0 11.dxe5 Nxe4 12.Bxh6 d5 13.Bf4 Bg4 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Re8 17.Nc3 Bxe5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Rfe1 Ng5 20.Qg3 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Ne6 22.b3 Qa5 23.Re5 Qa3 24.Kh2 Qc1 25.Ne2 Qd2 26.f4 Nc5 27.Qh4 g6 28.f5 g5 29.Qh6 Qb2 30.Qxg5+ Kf8 31.f6 Ne6 32.Rxe6 1–0

BC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP (October 12-14) by Paul Leblanc

This year's BC Women's Championship was held alongside the BC Championship at Capilano University's Lonsdale campus. The venue also featured the Western Canadian Open. This "chess festival" was conceived by the BCCF with a view to showcase our premier championships before some of our members.

The format of the Women's Championship was changed from a round-robin invitational to six-round open event with players rated over 1800 receiving free entry. This attracted a total field of eleven players which seems modest but was actually the largest field in the history of this championship. Emerging victorious was Lia Rathburn with a score of 5.0-1.0 followed closely by Kate Jiang and Gillian Mok at 4.5–1.5. Lia's only loss was to Kate Jiang in round four and at that point Kate took the lead in the tournament and seemed headed for victory. However, a cliff hanger of a rook and pawn ending between Kate and Gillian Mok in round five ended in Gillian's favour and allowed Lia to move back into first place. All three ladies won their last round matches. First prize was \$500 and a \$1,000 travel grant to the next Canadian Women's Championship.

Rathburn, Lia (1865) – Mok, Gillian (1938) [A00] BC wom op North Vancouver (3.1), 13.10.2024

1.d3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Ne2 Nc6 Pretty standard so far. **6.0-0 Bg4 7.h3 Bd7** Having provoked h3, the plan is to push a pawn to h4, sacrifice a piece for two pawns on g4, and mate is inevitable! That was my perception of things over the board, anyway. White is probably fine even if that plan completes, but it would be a very annoying position to play. **8.c3 Qc8 9.Kh2 e5 10.f4 h5** White is in fact better after 11.a4 h4 12.g4 and either g4 piece sacrifice, but I did not feel like finding out. **11.fxe5 dxe5 12.Bg5 Nh7 13.Be3 Qd8 14.d4** A spiritual betrayal of my first move, but it's a natural response to Black's focus on the h-file. **14...exd4** Giving up the centre and making my next few moves quite easy to find and play. Qe7 was better. **15.cxd4 Qe7** Na5-c4 was another idea. **16.Nbc3 Nf6 17.e5 Nh7 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Ndf4** Nef4 was more accurate. I moved this knight to open up the g2-b7 and b3-f7 diagonals. **Bf5** Castling was safer. **20.Qb3 Qc8**



21.Nxh5 Would have been more effective on the previous move! Apparently e6 followed by d5 was the strongest idea here. This position is quite complicated, and though not the right tactic, Nxh5 is a quick way to simplify it and gain a position in which my two bishops and central pawns are clearly better than Black's extra rook. **gxf5 22.Rxf5 Qxf5 23.Rf1 Qd7 24.Qxb7** At this point I was concerned about 24...Rb8 25.Qxc6 Rxb2 hitting the knight. But White ends up with a much better position a pawn up after 26.Qa8+ Qd8 27.Bc6+ Ke7 28.Qxa7 Rxe2+ 29.Kh1 Kf8 30.Qc5+ Qe7 31.Qb5 Bxe5 32.Qxe2 Qe6 33.dxe5 Qc6+ 34.Kh2... **0-0**
25.Qxc6 Qxc6 26.Bxc6 Rab8 27.b3 Rb6 28.Bd5 Bh6 29.Nf4 Rd8 30.Bc4 Nf8 31.a4 31.d5 would have been very strong here.



This move reduces its future effectiveness. **Rb7 32.d5 Nd7 33.e6 Ne5** [diagram] White's minor pieces and pawns are all under direct or indirect attack. For a second time I play an inaccurate Nxh5 tactic to simplify the position. I was rather worried that I had misplayed the position with so many of my pieces under pressure! The best move, which I did not consider, is 34.Bb5 threatening e6-e7. After 34...c6 35.dxc6 Rc7 the computer recommends a king move, followed by Re1 or Rc1. **34.Nxh5 Bxe3 35.e7 Rdb8 36.Nf6+ Kh8 36...Kg7** would allow the king to put pressure on the knight after the queening. **37.e8=Q+ Rxe8 38.Nxe8 Nxc4 39.bxc4 Kg8 40.d6 cxd6 41.Nxd6 Rd7**



42.Nxf7 Results in a drawn endgame. I was blithely convinced that three passed pawns against a bishop is surely a win. 42.Nf5 was correct, but seemed more complicated to me. **Rxf7 43.Rxf7 Kxf7 44.Kg2 Kf6 45.Kf3 Bb6 45...Bd2** keeps all of the pawns in check. **46.Ke4 Ke6 47.h4** I was worried that g4 would allow the bishop to block the pawns, but after 47...Bd8 48.Kf4 there's no way to stop their movement. **47...Bf2 48.Kf3 Be1 49.h5 Kf5** Again, Bd2 puts the bishop in position to block the kingside pawns while Black's king takes care of the c-pawn. If White's king moves to the kingside, Black is in time to take the c-pawn and move the king back close enough to prevent White from queening. This move gives White a clear path to win.

50.g4+ Kg5 51.c5 Bd2 52.Ke4 Kf6 53.Kd5 Ke7 54.Kc6 Kd8 55.Kb7 a5 56.c6 Bf4 57.h6 1-0

Jiang, Kate (2027) – Rathburn, Lia (1865) [B06] BC wom op North Vancouver (4.1), 13.10.2024

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.h3 a6 5.a4 Nc6 6.Nf3 e5 7.Be3 Bd7 8.Bc4 h6 9.Qd2 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 exd4 11.Bxd4 Bxd4 12.Qxd4 Qf6 13.Qd2 Ne7 14.0–0 Be6 15.Bd5 c6 16.Bxe6 Qxe6 17.Rad1 0–0–0 18.Rfe1 g5 19.b4 g4 20.h4 Ng6 21.h5 Ne5 22.Qe3 Rhg8 23.Ne2 Qc4 24.c3 Rg5 25.Ng3 f6 26.Rd4 Qe6 27.Red1 Kc7 28.Qe2 Qb3 29.Qd2 Qxa4 30.Qf4 Rf8 31.Rxd6 Qc2 32.Qe3 Rf7 33.R6d4 Re7 34.Kh1 Re6 35.R4d2 Qb3 36.Qd4 Rg8 37.Ne2 Kc8 38.Qb6 Ree8 39.Rd4 Qf7 40.Ng3 Qc7 41.Qxc7+ Kxc7 42.Rd6 Rd8 43.Nf5 Rxd6 44.Rxd6 Nd7 45.Re6 Rg5 46.Ng3 Re5 47.Rxe5 Nxe5 48.Nf5 Nf7 49.Kh2 b6 50.Kg3 a5 51.bxa5 bxa5 52.Kxg4 a4 53.Ne3 Nd6 54.Kf4 a3 55.Nc2 a2 56.e5 fxe5+ 57.Kxe5 Kd7 [Black offered a draw.] 58.Kf6 Ne4+ 59.Kg6 Nxf2 60.Kxh6 Ke7 61.Kg7 Ng4 62.h6 Ne3 63.Na1 Nf5+ 64.Kg6 Nd6 65.h7 Nf7 66.Kg7 Ke6 67.g4 c5 68.g5 c4 69.g6 1–0

Mok, Gillian (1938) – Jiang, Kate (2027) [C48] BC wom op North Vancouver (5.1), 14.10.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Nd4 5.Bc4 Bc5 6.d3 d6 7.h3 c6 8.Nxd4 Bxd4 9.Ne2 Bb6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Nh5 13.Qd2 Nf4 14.Bxf4 gxf4 15.d4 Qe7 16.0–0–0 Bd7 17.Qc3 0–0–0 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.g3 Bxf2 20.gxf4 exf4 21.Qf3 Qc5 22.Bxf7 Qe3+ 23.Qxe3 Bxe3+ 24.Kb1 Rdf8 25.Bh5 Rhg8 26.Bf3 Kc7 27.c3 c5 28.Rd5 Bc6 29.Rh5 Rg6 30.Rf1 Re6 31.Rf5 Rxf5 32.exf5 Rf6 33.Kc2 Rxf5 34.Bxc6 Kxc6 35.Kd3 Kd5 36.c4+ Ke5 37.Re1 Bf2 38.Rf1 Bh4 39.Ng1 Bg3 40.Nf3+ Kd6 41.Ke4 Rf6 42.Rd1+ Ke7 43.Rd5 Bf2 44.Re5+ Kd7 45.Rf5 Rb6 46.Ne5+ Ke6 47.Nd3 Be3 48.Rh5 Kf7 49.b3 Re6+ 50.Kf3 b6 51.Rd5 Kf6 52.Nxf4 Bxf4 53.Kxf4 Kg6 54.Rd7 a6 55.Rd5 Kf6 56.h4 Kg6 57.h5+ Kf6 58.Rd7 Re2 59.Rh7 Rf2+ 60.Kg3 Rxa2 61.Rxh6+ Kg5 62.Rxb6 Kxh5 63.Kf4 a5 64.Rb5 a4 65.Rxc5+ Kg6 66.bxa4 Kf6 67.a5 Ke6 68.Ke4 Kd6 69.Rg5 Kc6 70.Kd4 Rd2+ 71.Kc3 Rd1 72.Rb5 Rc1+ 73.Kd4 Rd1+ 74.Kc3 Rc1+ 75.Kd3 Rd1+ 76.Kc2 Ra1 77.Kb2 Ra4 78.Kb3 Ra1 79.Re5 Rb1+ 80.Kc2 Ra1 81.Kd3 Rd1+ 82.Ke4 Rc1 83.Kd3 Rd1+ 84.Kc2 Ra1 85.Rd5 Ra4 86.Kd3 Ra1 87.Ke4 Re1+ 88.Kf5 Rc1 89.a6 Ra1 90.Ke6 Re1+ 91.Kf7 Ra1 92.Ke7 Ra4 93.Rd8 Kb6 94.Rd6+ Kc5 95.Kd7 Kxc4 96.Kc7 Kc5 97.Rc6+ Kb5 98.Rb6+ Kc5 99.Kb7 Ra2 100.a7 Ra1 101.Ra6 Rb1+ 102.Kc7 Rg1 103.Ra5+ Kb4 104.a8Q 1–0

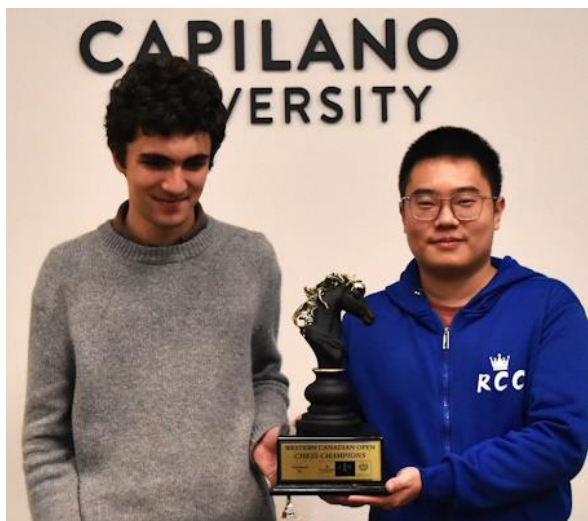


Lia Rathburn

2024 Western Canadian Open (October 12-14) by Victoria Doknjas

As many of you know, Vancity Chess and Juniors to Masters Chess Academy will be hosting the 2025 Canadian Youth Chess Championship and 2025 Canadian Open in Surrey, BC. Part of our plan was to leave a legacy tournament for BC Players and for those visiting from outside the province to enjoy year after year: the Western Canadian Open. During the Thanksgiving long weekend, the 2024 Western Canadian Open took place alongside the 2024 BC Closed Championship and the 2024 BC Women's Open. In all there were nearly one hundred players who got to enjoy the spacious and scenic CapU Lonsdale playing venue while their parents and friends waited comfortably in nearby classrooms/Skittles rooms.

Congratulations to the 2024 [Western Canadian Open](#) Co-Champions, NM Niccolò Baldeschi and NCM Yidong Chen! Both had an undefeated score of 5.0/6. There was a massive five-way tie for third Place: NM Jason Kenney, NCM Joe Roback, Justin Gao, Lucas Yao, and Ryan Golchin. Top honours for the [U1600](#) goes to Xavier Zhang with a score of 5.0/6 games. Arnav Shetty and Lucas Chen tied for second place just a half point shy of first place. U1200 class prize goes to Julian Tang. First place in the [U1000 Section](#) was shared by Seshadri Sai Sowmiya Narayanan and Kevin Taikai Liu, both scoring 4.5/6. Top CapU Student award was won by Earl Dangwa; and Top CapU Faculty/Staff award was won by Luis Eduardo Azmitia Pardo.



Niccolò Baldeschi and Yidong Chen



Murray Chu, Victoria Doknjas, Tyler Sanderson

Thank you to Capilano University for providing the venue, and to our wonderful Sponsors, the BC Chess Federation and Victoria Chess. And thank you to the players who came out to play. Organizing Team: Juniors to Masters Chess Academy, Vancity Chess, Capilano University. TDs and Organizers: Murray Chu, Tyler Sanderson, Victoria Doknjas

Players and spectators were given a rare treat to see close and upfront a display of some of BC's most prominent perpetual chess trophies and plaques:



From left to right: BC Women's Championship, Langley Open, Victoria Cup, BC v Washington Junior Match, BC Championship, BC Senior Championship and BC Open (Joe Oszvald Cup).

Juniors to Masters Chess Academy and Vancity Chess look forward to welcoming players to: [2025 Canadian Youth Chess Championship](#), July 8-11, 2025, and [2025 Canadian Open](#), July 12-18, 2025

Golchin, Ryan (1572) – Roback, Joe (2022) [A30] Western CAN op North Vancouver (1.4), 12.10.2024

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 g5 6.0–0 g4 7.Nh4 Bxg2 8.Kxg2 Nc6 9.e3 Rg8 10.d4 e6 11.d5 Ne5 12.b3 a6 13.e4 Qc7 14.f4 gxf3+ 15.Nxf3 Bd6 16.Bf4 Neg4 17.e5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Bxe5 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Qf3 Rg6 21.dxe6 Rd8 22.exd7+ Kf8 23.Rae1 Qb8 24.Nd5 1–0

Baldeschi, Niccolò (2380) – Verdon, Norman (1862) [A25] Western CAN op North Vancouver (3.1), 13.10.2024

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nc3 g6 5.d5 Nce7 6.e4 Bg7 7.Be3 Nf6 8.f3 Bd7 9.Qd2 h5 10.Nge2 b6 11.Nc1 a5 12.Nd3 Neg8 13.Be2 Bh6 14.0–0 Kf8 15.f4 Qe7 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.Rf2 Ng4 18.Bxg4 hxg4 19.Raf1 Rh7 20.c5 f5 21.exf5 gxf5 22.Rxf5+ Bxf5 23.Rxf5+ Kg7 24.Rxe5 Qf7 25.Nf4 Kh8 26.Ne6 Qf6 27.Bxh6 Nxh6 28.Re1 bxc5 29.Ne4 Qg6 30.Qc3+ Rg7 31.Qxg7+ Qxg7 32.Nxg7 Kxg7 33.Nxc5 Rb8 34.b3 Kf7 35.Re6 Nf5 36.Rc6 Rd8 37.Rxc7+ Ke8 38.Ne4 Kf8 39.Rc5 a4 40.bxa4 Re8 41.d6 Rxe4 42.Rxf5+ Ke8 43.a5 Kd7 44.Kf2 Ra4 45.Kg3 Rxa2 46.Rg5 Ra4 47.Rxg4 Rxa5 48.Rd4 1–0

Kenney, Jason (2259) – Chen, Yidong (2217) [B23] Western CAN op North Vancouver (5.2), 14.10.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 g6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.0–0 Bg7 7.d3 a6 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.f5 Nf6 10.Qe1 gxf5 11.Nh4 fxe4 12.Nf5 Rg8 13.Bg5 Bh8 14.Qh4 Qd7 15.dxe4 Rxg5 16.Qxg5 0–0–0 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.exd5 Rg8 19.Qd2 Ng4 20.Rae1 Be5 21.h3 Nf6 22.b4 c4 23.Rxe5 dxe5 24.d6 Ne4 25.Qd5 Nxd6 26.Nxd6+ exd6 27.Qxc4+ Qc6 28.Qxc6+ bxc6 29.Rxf7 h5 30.Ra7 Rg3 31.Rxa6 Kb7 32.b5 cxb5 33.Rxd6 Rc3 34.Re6 Rxc2 35.Rxe5 Kb6 36.Rxh5 Rxa2 37.Rh8 Kc5 38.h4 b4 39.Rc8+ Kd4 40.Rb8 Kc3 41.g4 b3 42.g5 Ra4 0–1 [But the position is a draw – 43.Kf2 Rxh4 44.Kf3]

VANCOUVER CHESS FESTIVAL #8 (September 28-29)

The Vancouver Chess School began the 2024/25 tournament season by returning to the Ponderosa Ballroom on the Point Grey campus of UBC for Vancouver Chess Festival #8. However, the format has been tweaked. There is still a two-day Classical tournament with a time control of 50 + 10 (now in five sections) and a Regional Qualifier for the Chess Challenge on Sunday, but the one-day Rapid has been abandoned, to be replaced by a seven-round Blitz event on Saturday evening.

A quarter of the thirty-three players in the [Classical Open](#) were rated over 2000; many were previous competitors, but there was also Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, making his first appearance in a rated event since before the pandemic, and Niccolò Baldeschi, an Italian exchange student now living in New Westminster. In the end seven of the eight masters/experts tied for the top eight places: Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, Justin Xu, and the one sub-2000 player, Justin Gao, all scored 4.0/5 and split the first- to fourth-place prizes, while Raymond Kaufman, Alfred Pechisker, Zachary Liu, and Niccolò Baldeschi shared the fifth-place prize. Sophia Doroshenko was the top female. Ties were the order of the day elsewhere as well. In the [U1800](#)

[Section](#) Zhengyu Chen, Ryan Golchin, Haoze (Dennis) Wang, Tiago Ferrez were first with 4.0 points, a half-point in front of Weijia Huang, Barath Subramanian Suresh, Bingda (Brady) Li, Aaron Li, Moses Li, and Xavier Zhang who split fifth. Top females were Joanne Wangluo and Sofia Vigurs. The [U1400 Section](#) had a sole winner, Alex (Guo Xi) Yu, while Patrick Steel, Chase Shu, and Ansun Zhong Hua Zhou shared the remaining prizes. Chelsea Tang was the top female. There was also an individual winner in the [Classical U1000](#), Yuran Ma, whose 5.0/5 was a full point ahead of Jason Han, Yuvraj Joubble, and Gabriel Golliak who tied for second. Martina Szeto, Nicole Jayawardena, and Qianhui Wang split the top female prize. Finally Haochen Tong, Charlie Qiao, Darsh Fuletra and Rachel Jayawardena were awarded VCS signature medals in the [U600 Section](#). A total of one hundred and twenty-seven players participated in the Classical sections.

The [Blitz](#) attracted a total of thirty-six players in two sections. The Open was convincingly won by Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, whose 6.5/7 was a full point ahead of Zachary Liu in second. Third was shared by Raymond Kaufman, Ryan Leong, and Jaydon Yuan. Also in the field was Benedict Daswani, playing in his first local event in over a decade. Aarush Sharma won the U1400 Section, Ansun Zhong Hua Zhou and Mark Karaivanov tied for second. And for those interested in the Chess Challenge Regional, results can be found at the [Vancouver Chess School](#).

DRAW OFFERS by Nick Beqo

I am following the 2024 US Chess Championship and it's interesting that players are not allowed to offer draws. However, this is not a new rule, a similar rule called Sofia Rule has been implemented in many tournaments since 2005. What I like about the Sofia Rule is that it is not just to avoid boring short draws by mutual agreement but also to avoid cases when the draw offer is used unethically and in positions that are not drawish. These type of draw offers can negatively affect the player that is trying to find winning ideas. The inappropriate draw offers often happen in low level tournaments and I wish the Sofia Rule can be implemented in all our local tournaments. Especially juniors will benefit and learn more from playing chess until the position is dead draw and the draw is achieved either by perpetual or three-fold repetition.

I have been a few times on the receiving end of inappropriate draw offer and here is one of the most recent examples:



This position happened in Round 2 of Langley Open 2024. I am an exchange up and according to stockfish White has a 4.5 advantage. I was thinking of playing 46.Ke3 and in case of Ke5 I would play f4 but somehow I played **46.f4** rightaway and the game continued **46...c3 47.bxc3 Nxc3**.



The first draw offer by Black

I was a bit upset that I did not go for 46.Ke3 instead of 46.f4 but White is winning anyways. According to the stockfish the position is evaluated as +3.0. To my surprise my opponent offered a draw. He was rated 306 ELO points below my rating and the clock situation was 47 minutes for me and 7 minutes for him. As a chess professional I ignored the draw offer by simply playing my next move **48.Re1** and kept calculating. However, my opponent played **48...a4** and offers draw again! Here I was calculating 49.Ke3 a3 50.Ra1 a2 51.Kd4 and after 51...Nxe4 52.Kxe4 I was working on my winning idea.



Black is in Zugzwang

My Rook can move along the first rank as needed but Nb4 must protect the pawn on a2 and cannot move. My winning idea was to simply go with my King to the h-pawn via Kf3-g3-h4, give up my f-pawn for the h6 pawn and go all way with my King to h8 and my pawn to h7 and kick the Black King out of the f-file with Rf1 check.

The second draw offer got to me, and I messed up the move order. Instead of playing Ke3, Ra1 and then Kd4 as planned, I played **49.Ke3 a3 50.Kd4** and now Ra1 is no longer possible after 50... Nxe4 51.Kxe4 Nc2.

Messing up the move order changed the evaluation of the position from winning to losing. I played a few more moves, resigned by shaking my opponent's hand and thought to myself, lesson learned, Nick! Next time when the opponent offers draws like this just smile and tell the opponent, "Sorry, I play until the end." This is exactly what I said to my other junior opponent in Round 4 that also offered me a draw in a worse position and almost in the opening phase.

In the meantime, I hear my opponent saying, "Interesting game". Well, he asked for it, so I laid it out, "What interesting game, you were lost the whole time, I blundered by messing up the move order after you offered draw twice in a row. First it is not ethical to offer a draw to a much higher-rated opponent, especially in a lost position, and second it is against the rules to offer a draw on two consecutive moves. [but see below – editor]"

Maybe I was a bit harsh because as he told me the next day he thought I did not hear him when he offered a draw the first time and I believe his is a talented player and will surpass my ELO soon. However, sometimes, being blunt and straightforward can have a better effect rather than trying to be politically correct. All this can be avoided if the Sofia Rule would apply in the future, just as it's applied in 2024 US Championship.

[The correct way to handle this situation is to pause the clock and involve the arbiter. As stated in the Laws of Chess:

11.5 "It is forbidden to distract or annoy the opponent in any manner whatsoever. This includes unreasonable claims, unreasonable offers of a draw or the introduction of a source of noise into the playing area."

The arbiter has the authority to warn the offending player, also to possibly add time to the disturbed player's clock to allow them to regain their composure. So get the arbiter involved – that's what we're there for – editor]

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

Jack Taylor Memorial

Victoria, October 25-27

[Details](#)

Quesnel Chess Nuggets Rapid

Quesnel, November 16

[Details](#)

BC Junior Winter Rapid Championship

Langley, November 2

[Details](#)

BC Junior Championship

Burnaby, November 16-17

[Details](#)

RCC Elite Chess Championship #4

Richmond, November 2

[Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival #9

UBC, November 23-24

[Details](#)

West Vancouver Rapid Chess

West Vancouver, November 3

[Details](#)

Victoria Holiday Inn Rapid

Saanich, November 24

[Details](#)

Okanagan Valley Rapid 2

West Kelowna, November 9

[Details](#)

West Vancouver Rapid Chess

West Vancouver, December 1

[Details](#)

BC Junior Chess Rapid

Burnaby, November 10

[Details](#)

Greater Vancouver Open #6

Burnaby, December 7-8

[Details](#)

RCC Elite Chess Championship #5

Richmond, December 8

[Details](#)

Okanagan Valley Rapid 3

West Kelowna, December 7

[Details](#)

RCC Elite Championship #5

Richmond, December 8

[Details](#)

Christmas Blitz Championship

Richmond, December 14

[Details](#)

New Year Open 2025

Richmond, January 2-4, 2025

[Details](#)

Lulu Island Chess Classical 1

New Westminster, January 25-26, 2025

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, April 18-21

[Details](#)

Canadian Youth Chess Championship

Surrey, July 8-11, 2025

[Details](#)

Canadian Open

Surrey, July 12-18, 2025

[Details](#)