

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #461

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

Fraser Valley Classical 2 (February 22-23)

Following the same format as Classical 1 in January (three rounds of 50 + 10 Classical followed by four games of 3 + 2 Blitz each day), Fraser Valley Classical 2 attracted fifty-four players to the home of the Fraser Valley Chess Academy in Langley on the weekend of February 22-23. Reece Harms has been having some good results of late, but in the twenty-player [Open Section](#) he broke through to claim clear first with 5.5/6, winning all his games along with a half-point bye. Second and third was shared between Mayo Fuentebella and Nick Beqo on 4.5 points, while Robin Hayer and Garth Anderson split the U1800 prize. The [U1400 Section](#) was won by unrated Nathan Malinis, who built on the full-point bye he received in the first round to place first with 5.0 points. Vladimir Belousov was second a half-point behind, and Beck Wang, Dyllan Garcia, Zilang (Timson) Chen, and Hector Abad all tied for third. And a similar prize distribution occurred in the [U1000 Section](#) – unrated Jovan Gill was first with a perfect score, Stephen Poissant was second and Devdarshan Amarnath and Aadya Telikicherla tied for third. The twenty-nine player [Open Blitz](#) was dominated by Ryan Leong who gave up just a single draw from eight games. Joanne Wangluo was ranked only thirteenth initially but tied for second with Mayo Fuentebella, each scored 6.0 points; her Quick rating jumped almost 300 points as a result. (Photo by Neelesh Jain, more [here](#))



Reece Harms

European Excursions

Last issue we left IM Max Gedajlovic playing in the first of two tournaments in Budapest, Hungary. **SixDays Budapest January 2025** (January 26-31) was the first in an intended series of GM/IM norm events, each comprising several ten-player round-robin sections. This inaugural tournament had six such sections, with Max competing in GM B and Michael Yip in the U2250 Section. As older readers will remember, Michael was part of the Vancouver chess scene for a time but has been living in Budapest for the past twenty years. The [GM B](#) section was won by IM Lev Zverev (FIDE flag) on tiebreak over GM Misa Pap (Serbia), both scored 6.0/9. Max drew with the three GMs and achieved a winning position against Zverev in round 5 but allowed him to escape in a complex double-rook ending to finish with 4.5 points, as predicted by his rating. Michael Yip also

scored 50% in the [U2250](#), good for a modest rating gain; the winner was Bank Karacsonyi (Hungary) with 5.5/7 (there were only eight players in the section).



Max Gedajlovic



Michael Yip

Szpar, Milosz (2457) – Gedajlovic, Max (2390) [C45] SixDays January 2025 GM B Budapest (8.4), 30.01.2025

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.b3 g6 10.Ba3 Nb4 11.Bb2 Bg7 12.a3 Nd5 13.Nd2 0–0 14.0–0–0 Rfe8 15.Qf3 Nb6 16.Ne4 Bxe5 17.Bxe5 Qxe5 18.Nf6+ Kh8 19.Nxe8 Qa1+ 20.Kc2 Qa2+ 21.Kc3 Rxe8 22.Qf6+ Kg8 23.Bd3 Rb8 24.Rb1 d5 25.Qxc6 d4+ 26.Kxd4 Qd2 27.Qxc7 Rc8 28.Qd6 Bxc4 29.bxc4 Rxc4+ 30.Ke5 Qf4# 0–1

For Max this was followed immediately by the **First Saturday February 2025** (February 1-8), the latest edition of the famous tournament – Max previously played in the series last August. As above, IM Artem Uskov (FIDE flag) topped the [GM Section](#) by beating IM Loic Travadon (France), both scored 6.5/10. Max again drew with all three GMs but this time finished on minus one with a total of 4.0 points

Gedajlovic, Max (2391) – Ernst, Robert (2380) [B47] First Saturday February 2025 GM Budapest (6.4), 06.02.2025

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Ncb5 Qb8 7.Bd3 Nge7 8.0–0 a6 9.Nxc6 Nxc6 10.Nc3 Be7 11.Be3 b5 12.f4 d6 13.a3 Qc7 14.Qg4 g6 15.Qg3 0–0 16.h4 Bf6 17.h5 Qe7 18.e5 dxe5 19.Ne4 Bh4 20.Qh2 f5 21.Bc5 Qd8 22.Bxf8 Kxf8 23.fxe5 Kg7 24.Nd6 Bd7 25.Rad1 Bg5 26.Be2 Nd4 27.Bf3 Ra7 28.c3 Nxf3+ 29.Rxf3 Qb6+ 30.Kh1 Bc6 31.Rh3 Qf2 32.hxg6 h6 33.Qg1 Qxg1+ 34.Kxg1 Bf4 35.Re1 Kxg6 36.Rd3 Rd7 37.Rd4 Bg5 38.Re2 Bd8 39.Kf1 Bb6 40.Rf4 Bc5 41.g3 Bxd6 42.exd6 Rxd6 43.Rd4 Bd5 44.Kf2 Rc6 45.g4 Rc7 46.gxf5+ Kxf5 47.Rh4 Rh7 48.Ke3 Kg5 49.Rf4 h5 50.Re1 h4 51.Rg1+ Kh5 52.Rgg4 1–0

Another recent participant in an event the other side of the Atlantic was IM Raymond Kaufman (left), who took part in the **Wightlink Isle of Wight International** (February 18-23). Held in Ryde on the Isle of Wight, underneath Southampton and Portsmouth on the English South Coast, Kaufman and FM Adam Dorrance from Nova Scotia were among the one hundred and twenty-three players in the Masters Section. After nine rounds there was a four-way tie for first between GMs Bobby Cheng (Australia), Sebastian Bogner (Switzerland), Boris Chatalbashev (Denmark), and IM Matthew Wadsworth (England) on 7.0 points with Cheng receiving the trophy on tiebreak. Adam won the U2300 prize of £100 for his score of 6.0 points while Raymond finished with 5.5 including a win against English GM Keith Arkell. Raymond place fourth on tiebreak in one of the adjunct Blitz events, finishing just outside the prize money. (photo by Wing Chee Man)



**Kaufman, Raymond (2178) – Arkell, Keith C. (2329)
[E11] Wightlink Isle of Wight int Ryde (7.18), 22.02.2025**

Keith Arkell: I asked him why he is no longer 2400: 'In Vancouver everyone is 200 points under-rated.'

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Bxd2+ 5.Qxd2 d6 6.Nc3 Qe7 7.g3 0–0 8.Bg2 e5 9.0–0 Re8 10.Rad1 c6 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Qd6 Qxd6 13.Rxd6 Bg4 14.Rfd1 Nbd7 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Nb6 17.b3 Nc8 18.R6d2 g6 19.e3 Kf8 20.g4 h6 21.Kh2 a5 22.Kg3 Ne7 23.Bg2 g5 24.Ne4 Nxe4+ 25.Bxe4 Ng8 26.Rd6 Kg7 27.Bf5 Nf6 28.f3 a4 29.b4 a3 30.b5 cxb5 31.cxb5 Ra4 32.Rb6 Re7 33.Rdd6 Ng8 34.Be4 Rc7 35.Rxb7 Rxb7 36.Bxb7 Rb4 37.b6 Rb2 38.Bd5 Ne7 39.Bb3 Ng6 40.h4 Nxh4 41.b7 1–0

Vancity Rapid Championship (February 9) by Murray Chu



FM John Doknjas, NM Brian McLaren, CM Neil Doknjas, FM Joshua Doknjas, CM Jorge Nunez Asencio, Daniel Zhu, Johan Aljo, NM, and Zachary Liu with Tyler Sanderson and Murray Chu

Congratulations to CM Neil Doknjas for winning the third annual [Vancity Rapid Championship!](#) As in previous years, we invited winners and top performers from that year's rapid tournaments (including BC Active, Kitsfest, and Fraser Valley Rapids) into a closed single-elimination tournament. Neil was the only player who had to contend with tie-breaks in all of his matches but he managed to come out on top each time, ultimately winning the championship! An announcement will be made soon for qualifiers to the 2025 championship, which will be held at the end of the year or early next year. In the meantime, keep coming out to all the rapid tournaments hosted by all our wonderful organizers across BC! Thanks again to Fraser Valley Chess for hosting the championship this year and letting us use your DGT boards to broadcast the games live.

Okanagan Valley Rapid 3 (February 8)

Thirty-five players participated in this five-round rapid event, the third in a series held at the Okanagan Regional Library in West Kelowna. In the [Open Section](#) Andrew Court was ranked third from the bottom but ended up taking first place with a perfect 5.0/5, second and third were shared by James Bridger and Zachary Chruszcz a full point back. David Carlesimo, Daniel Gyori, Zack Metcalfe, and Akshit Bedi all tied for the top spot in the [U1500 Section](#) on 4.0 points. [Okanagan Valley Rapid 4](#) is scheduled for May 24.

Fraser Valley Rapid 14 (February 1)

The first weekend in February was busy with Fraser Valley Rapid 14 taking place, at Christian Life Assembly Church in Langley; the six-round Rapid attracted seventy-eight players in three sections, while twenty-seven entered the Blitz. NM Mayo Fuentebella, CM Jorge Nunez Asencio, and NM Zachary Liu all scored 4.5 points but in turn all were beaten by veteran NM Brian McLaren (left) in winning the [Open Section](#) by a full point with 5.5/6. The [U1500](#) saw Arhaan Dhanani and Nathan Malinis split the top two prizes with 5.0 points each while Magnus Klassen and Beck Wang tied for third. And Reynando Potutan placed first in the [U1100 Section](#) with a perfect score, two(!) points ahead of the massive tie for second involving ZhiHong Jayden Pang, Fred Cui, Kabilan Thennarasu, Lee Wood, Amandeep Khasariya, and Yuhong Chen. After all that the [Blitz](#) was dominated by youthful players, with prizes going to Zachary Liu, Daniel Zhu, Kai Zhongkai Zhang, and Bowen Wu. The next [Fraser Valley Rapid](#) is the first weekend in April.



(Photo by Neelesh Jain, more [here](#))

RCC Elite Championship (February 1-2)

The Richmond Chess Champions (RCC) organized an Elite Championship on the first weekend in February, five rounds of classical chess, which attracted a total of thirty-four players. Yidong Chen was the only master in the [Open Section](#) and unsurprisingly placed first but he didn't have things all

his own way, giving up draws to Reece Harms and Aiden Yin who tied for second with 3.5/5; Joanne Wangluo was the top girl. Zi Tian Chen and Sky Cui tied for first in the [U1600 Section](#) with 4.0 points, Koorosh Javidi was third and Martina Szeto the top girl. Finally there was another tied for first in the U800 Section between Andrew Li and Jinghuan LI, also with 4.0 points, Cody Lin took third and top girl was Audrey Yu. The next [RCC Elite Championship](#) is on March 9.

Vancouver Island Rapid Championship and Open (February 1) by Paul Leblanc

Peter Mingrone Wins Inaugural Event

It appears that Rapid chess has become even more popular than Classical chess these days and so it seemed appropriate to introduce a Rapid championship to Vancouver Island. Fifty-one players competed at the Commonwealth Recreation Centre on Saturday, February 1. This location has been working out well for chess tournaments. It has a small restaurant, free parking and a suitable playing room that seats up to seventy players.

The event was divided into three sections. The top six players competed in a round-robin and the remaining forty-five players were divided into an open Swiss and a U1400 Swiss.

Peter Mingrone edged out NM Roger Patterson in the Championship round-robin with 4.5 out of 5, holding Roger to a draw in their individual game and winning the rest while Roger gave up a second draw against Ian Cordon. One game (Patterson-Williamson) was a non-rated forfeit as Jason took the wise precaution to return to Nanaimo before a snow storm.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|-------------|-----|
| 1 Mingrone, Peter | 1794 | x = 1 1 1 1 | 4.5 |
| 2 Patterson, Roger | 1723 | = x + = 1 1 | 4.0 |
| 3 Williamson, Jason | 1891 | 0 - x 1 1 1 | 3.0 |
| 4 Cordon, Ian | 1872 | 0 = 0 x 1 1 | 2.5 |
| 5 Climenhaga, Harold | 1766 | 0 0 0 0 x = | 0.5 |
| 6 Marshall, Jim | 1782 | 0 0 0 0 = x | 0.5 |

Perfect 5.0-0.0 scores were notched in the [Open](#) and [U1400](#) sections by Ishan Tripathi and Andrei Krasnov respectively. A few words about these two up-and-coming players:

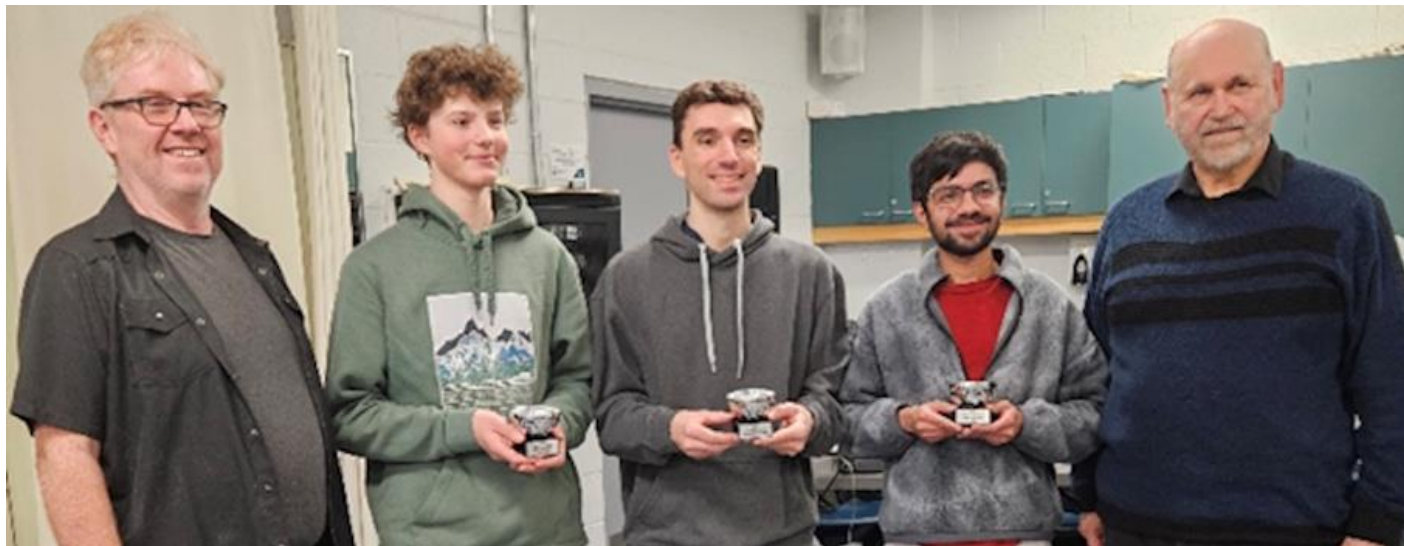
Ishan Tripathi first played competitively about a decade ago when in university in India, and then more recently in Toronto, when he was new to Canada. Over the years, he has mostly been playing blitz online, but rediscovered his love for over-the-board chess after attending some of the Victoria Chess Club sessions in November 2024. “It’s been really refreshing to reconnect with the physical aspects of the game, and my recent performance has been a big morale booster, reminding me of just how deep and nuanced chess can be. What I enjoy most about chess is the challenge it brings. There’s something about the strategy and how it parallels my work in Civil Engineering—both require problem-solving, forward thinking, and a careful balance of tactics and long-term planning. As for my goals, I aspire to improve my skills and compete at a higher level, but I also want to enjoy the process and the people I meet along the way.”

Andrei Krasnov’s father Igor shared some insight about Andrei:

“He is a student of Esquimalt High School, Challenge program, grade 11 (French Immersion). He is in a group of enthusiastic students who run the School chess club. The Esquimalt High chess team showcased chess at School events by challenging any student to win them and to be paid \$10 for it - nobody won them but they surely spread the message about chess around! Last year the School team, with him in it, won the Victoria tournament (beating even Mt. Douglas High's team!) and went

on to Vancouver to play with school teams there with some success. He also plays violin in the Victoria Conservatory of Music in a trio of other students”.

Top unrated winner was Zoltan Mueller who made a successful transition from online chess to live competition with 3.5 out of 5 in the Open section.



TD Michael Beaulieu, Andrei Krasnov, Peter Mingrone, Ishan Tripathi, Organizer Paul Leblanc

We at Victoria Chess hope to make this an annual event.

PNWCC MLK IM Norm 2025 (January 16-20)

Last October FM Ethan Song participated in a norm tournament at the Pacific Northwest Chess Centre in Seattle. He recently took part in a second such event which finished on Martin Luther King Day (MLK), January 20. Overall winner was GM Dimitri Komarov (Ukraine), now living in Edmonton, who finished with 6.0/9; Ethan tied for second with GM Vladimir Georgiev (Macedonia) and WIM Zoey Tang (USA) a half-point back. [Crosstable](#)

Song, Ethan (2291) – Willy, Stephen (2297) [B08] PNWCC MLK IM Norm 2025 (9.1), 20.01.2025

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be3 Nc6 5.h3 Nf6 6.Nc3 0–0 7.Qd2 e5 8.0–0–0 exd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Re8 11.f3 Be6 12.Kb1 c5 13.Be3 b5 14.Bxb5 Qa5 15.Bxe8 Nxe4 16.fxe4 Rb8 17.Bxf7+ Bxf7 18.b3 Bxc3 19.Qxd6 Rb6 20.Qxc5 Rb5 21.Qc8+ Kg7 22.Qxc3+ 1–0

BC v Alberta Match

The annual BC v Alberta match will take place in Salmon Arm 2-4 May 2025. Details are on the BCCF Events Calendar. If you are interested in playing for Team BC and your rating is above 2000 contact Paul Leblanc pc-leblanc@shaw.ca

Letter to the editor by Don Hack

Ethics

1. moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity.

In the article “**The Draw Offer and The Resignation**” (Bulletin #460) the ethics of Black’s play was questioned. I read nothing in the article where Black did anything unethical. Possibly, the author was thinking of “etiquette.”

The author is correct, humans make mistakes. Particularly in club-level play; usually, the last mistake wins. Entire chapters in chess books teach the art of earning a stalemate. I only noticed one offer of a draw. Heck, I had three offers of a draw in six moves in my last tournament game. One should engage the Arbiter if education is needed; this is a very effective method.

I observed a titled BC player under-promote two pawns to bishops, possibly to infer a “lesson” to a lower rated player. Is that proper etiquette to knowingly string out a game? Pretty much, we all pay the same entry fee. Every player has the right to play an entire game as defined by the laws of chess, even if one wants an earlier lunch.

BC OPEN (February 15-17)



For the second year in a row the BC Open was organized by the Penny Chess Club and held in Burnaby, this time at the Central Gym on the Burnaby Campus of Simon Fraser University. Two hundred and twenty players participated in the tournament in four sections which employed the classical slow time control of 90 + 30. Last year’s winner IM Bindi Cheng forfeited two games on day two which left the field open at the top and in the end four players tied for first: BC Women’s Champion Lia Rathburn, Johan Aljo, FM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, and NM Niccoló Baldeschi all scored 5.0 points but Lia was the overall winner on tiebreak. Harishkumar Karthikeyan and T.G.M. Peiris split the U2000 prize and Joanne Wangluo was the [Open Section](#) top women. The [U1800](#)

[Section](#) saw another win by Alex (Guo Xi) Yu, Austin Beech was second and third and the U1600 prizes went to Garth Anderson, Xavier Zhang, and Sky Cui. Hassan Hosseinpour, Jaime Sandoval, and Cody Fenske topped the [U1400 Section](#) where Zoya Singh was top woman. Finally, Amish Devarajan won the [U1000 Section](#) with a perfect score, Tianyou Huang was second and Albert Tian third, Genevieve Tang was top woman. The thirty-three player [Blitz](#) event was won by the main tournament's TD, IM Quang Long Le, with a perfect score, Ryan Lrong was second. [Photos](#)



Lia Rathburn with Penny Pham

Liu, Zachary Hankun (2137) – Rathburn, Lia (1913) [A01] BC op Burnaby (6.3), 17.02.2025

1.c4 d6 2.b3 e5 3.Bb2 f5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.d4 e4 8.f3 0–0 9.fxe4 Ng4 10.Bf3 fxe4 11.Nxe4 c5 12.Bxg4 Bxg4 13.h3 Bf5 14.Nf2 Nc6 15.Nf3 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 cxd4 17.Bxd4 Qa5+ 18.Kf1 Bc2 19.Bxg7 Rxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Qf5+ 21.Ke1 Bxd1 22.Bh6 Qe4 23.Rh2 Bxe2 24.Rc1 Re8 25.Kf2 Qf3+ 26.Kg1 Qxg3+ 27.Rg2 Qxh3 28.Rh2 Qg4+ 29.Kf2 Qf3+ 30.Kg1 Re4 31.Rc3 0–1

VANCOUVER CHESS FESTIVAL 10 (February 8-9)

Vancouver Chess Festival 10 took the same format as the two previous festivals this season – a five-round classical over two days, a seven-round blitz on the Saturday morning and a five-round Chess Challenge Regional on the Sunday. Previously the classical had five sections, the bottom being U600, but with the CFC adding bonus rating points to match the FIDE changes last March many players moved up a section and there were insufficient numbers for a U600 section.

As might be expected the titled players in the [Open Section](#) finished at the top of the crosstable, with IM Bindi Cheng, FM Ethan Song, (now NM) Yidong Chen, and CM Arpak Mohammed Qanee tying with 4.0/5, closely followed by FM Jingyuun (Ryan) Yang and IM Raymond Kaufman on 3.5.

Dasha Doroshenko was the top female. Alex (Guo Xi) Yu was clear first in the [U1900](#), Jofrel Landingin second, and Khaled Rezk, Richard Ingram, and Daniel Dou tied for third with Sophia Doroshenko top female. The [U1400 Section](#) saw another clear winner in Aaron Gu while Matthias Dahlmans and Zirui Ren tied for second, top female was Tiffany Trang Tran. And Ben Kohavi, Om Hasija and Darsh Hasija were the prize winners in the [U1000](#), along with top female Yaswitha Suresh. A total of seventy-nine players participated.



The Blitz was held in two sections and attracted thirty-four players. IM Bindi Cheng, IM Raymond Kaufman, and FM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang won the [Open](#) prizes while Darsh Hasija, Swayam Ghanghas, Pranav Budhiraja, and Geoffrey Trotter shared those in the [U1400](#). Among the entrants in the Open Section was Lucy Everylove, also known as Justin Case, who it turns out was an unaffiliated candidate in Utah for the last [U.S. Presidential Election](#).
[Regional Chess Challenge Results](#)

Lulu Island Chess Classical 1 (January 25-26)



Returning to Roma Hall in New Westminster, the site of last summer's BC Day Open, Lulu Island Chess held the first in a series of classical tournaments on the weekend of January 25-26. Adopting the 50 + 10 minimum time control for regular rating which is fast becoming the standard for non-long weekend events, the six-round Swiss attracted sixty-six players in three almost equally-sized sections. The [Open](#) included thirteen players rated over 2000 and was hard-fought, with a number of high-rated competitors finishing off the podium. Ultimately the two undefeated players tied for first, with FM Jingyun (Rayn) Yang and CM Neil Doknjas giving up three draws each in

scoring 4.5/6. Sharing third was FM John Doknjas and Johan Aljo, while top U2100 were Lucas Yao and Reece Harms. Ryan Golchin was the sole winner of the [U1900 Section](#) with 5.0 points, a half-point ahead of Ilan Keshet and Zhengyu Chen who tied for second. And Dane Sperling placed clear first in the [U1500 Section](#), Rio Vilches was second and third was split between Kanish Raj Sathish Raj, Sky Cui, Minh Quan Pham, and Entong Tian. The adjunct Blitz event took place on the Saturday evening and was won by CM Neil Doknjas with 6.0/7, a point ahead of Ryan Leong, FM John Doknjas, and Yidong Chen.

IN MEMORIAM



Boris Spassky and Stewart Rueben, Gibraltar 2009

We note with sadness the passing of the tenth World Champion, Boris Spassky (30 January 1937 – 27 February 2025). Obituaries and retrospectives can be found at [chess.com](#) or [ChessBase](#) among others, there are also various notes at Edward Winter's [website](#). Instead, I would like to offer a [link](#) to an article written in 2012 about Spassky's visits to Canada; he came to BC twice, for simultaneous displays in 1967 and for the [Canadian Open](#) in 1971. Concerning the Nanaimo clock simul the late Dan Scoones sent the following comments in 2004:

"The story on Keres and Spassky was a trip down memory lane for me. I was 14 years old at the time, and I was one of the ten punching bags who took on Spassky in Nanaimo. I know the venue was a local hotel, but I can't remember which one. Ed Seedhouse and Alan Lane also played against Spassky, while George Dinescu played against Keres. We drove up together in the same car. I don't recall there being any other Victoria players.

Before the event got underway, local alderman (and future mayor) Frank Ney welcomed the visitors and participants. Apart from an amusing gaffe (addressing Spassky as Mr. "Konaski") he made a very nice speech. At that time the annual bathtub race was in its infancy, and I clearly recall the alderman decking out the two GMs with little paper hats, paper flags and toy bathtubs marking the event. The look of sheer confusion on Spassky's face was priceless. Keres, however, merely smiled and nodded sagely.

In reply, Keres spoke on behalf of the two of them, having much the better command of English at

that time. He said they were enjoying their visit to Canada. The just-concluded Winnipeg GM tournament (won by Darga and Larsen) had been hard work, he said, and they were looking forward to our event as a chance to relax. In my youth and naivete I found that statement surprising -- how could playing ten opponents be easier than playing one opponent? Later, of course, I came to understand what he meant.

As it turned out, Spassky was just too tough for us, especially having White in every game. I got onto the bad side of a Queen's Gambit Declined and just couldn't defend against Spassky's kingside attack (gee -- I wonder why?) I did last for awhile, unlike poor Ed Seedhouse, who blundered a piece right in the opening. In a difficult position I set a clever trap for Spassky, but he saw through it in two or three seconds and gave me a wry smile before uncorking the refutation. After the game, he signed my scoresheet and said "You played well." I said, "Yes, but not as well as Russian kids my age," which brought a surprised and good-natured laugh.

After the ten clock games were finished we got to chat with Boris for a little while. He couldn't advise us about what we should have played in our games because, as he said, he didn't understand English notation (meaning descriptive.) Responding to a question about Fischer, he acknowledged that the American was a "very strong player." Luckily enough, George Dinescu was booked up on Spassky lore, and said, "Yes, but you beat him." This got another smile.

After the event was over we all went down to the hotel restaurant for a banquet. When our group eventually prepared to leave, I shook hands with both GMs and thanked them for coming. I looked at Spassky and said, "I think you will get a second chance at Petrosian, and this time you will beat him." That too got a big laugh from both GMs, but years later I wondered if he ever recalled the prediction made by the young Canadian in Nanaimo..."

Another major chess figure passed away recently, but likely unknown to most readers: the English organizer and arbiter Stewart Reuben (14 March 1939 – 4 February 2025). Personally, the third edition of his *The Chess Organiser's Handbook* has been a constant companion at any tournament I've run for the past twenty years. An obituary by [Leonard Barden](#).

COMING EVENTS: see listings at [CFC](#), [BCCF](#) and [Northwest chess](#) websites

March Blitz

Langley, March 3 [Details](#)

BC Corporate Chess Challenge

Langley, March 9 [Details](#)

RCC Elite Championship

Vancouver, March 9 [Details](#)

March Classic Tournament

Langley, March 10 onwards [Details](#)

LIC Winter Rapid

New Westminster, March 15 [Details](#)

BCYCC

Burnaby, March 22-23 [Details](#)

Victoria Laurel Point Rapid

Victoria, March 23 [Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 15

Langley, April 5 [Details](#)

BC Rapid Championship

Burnaby, April 6 [Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival 11

UBC, April 12-13 [Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, April 18-21 [Details](#)

Langley Chess Club Spring Classic

Langley, April 28 onwards [Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

Langley, May 17-19 [Details](#)

Okanagan Valley Rapid 4

West Kelowna, May 24 [Details](#)

BC Interschool Championship

Langley, May 31 – June 1 [Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 16

Abbotsford, June 14 [Details](#)

Canadian Youth Chess Championship

Surrey, July 8-11 [Details](#)

Canadian Open

Surrey, July 12-18 [Details](#)

World Chess Day Championship

Langley, July 19-20 [Details](#)