

## BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #462

Your editor welcomes any and all submissions – news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to BC players. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. To subscribe, send me an e-mail ([swright2@telus.net](mailto:swright2@telus.net)); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright



BC Chess Federation

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### HERE AND THERE

#### FIDE World School Championships (March 20-28)



First held in Halkidiki, Greece in 2005, the School Championships fill in the age group gaps left by the larger and more prestigious World Cadet/Youth Championships. That is, the latter are divided into sections based on even two-year age brackets (U08, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18), whereas the school championships employ the same two-year brackets but beginning with the odd ages (U07, U09, U11, U13, U15, U17). In both cases there are separate open and girls divisions, leaving the school event with a total of twelve sections.

This year's event was held in a town with much chess history, Vrnjačka Banja in Serbia. Four Canadians made the trip, Arnav Mane from Ontario (U15) and Aiden Zhu (U9), Lucas Yao (U11), and Joanne Wangluo (U13G) from this province. They finished eighteenth, twenty-first, sixteenth, and twenty-first respectively in their various sections; Aiden and Lucas lost rating points, Joanne and Arnav gained. [Results](#)

**Victoria Laurel Point Rapid** (March 23) by Paul Leblanc

**Peter Mingrone Extends Unbeaten Streak:** Forty-two players participated in a five-round CFC Quick rated tournament at the lovely Laurel Point Inn on a rainy Sunday. The event was divided into two sections, Premier and U1400. Time control was Game in 25 with 5 second increments. Peter Mingrone once again [cruised to victory](#), giving up a lone draw in the last round to Saul Magnusson and finishing at 4.5 out of 5. Peter is undefeated in the six consecutive Victoria rapid tournaments with a total score of 29 out of 30. Saul is a member of the RCAF and is stationed in Comox. He actually heard about our event at the recent Military Chess Championship in Kingston. Two players tied for second at 4.0-1.0 – Jason Williamson of Nanaimo and David Armstrong of Victoria.



Saul Magnusson vs Peter Mingrone (photo by Marc Moisan)

The [U1400 Section](#) featured a three-way tie for first place between Jayden Vu of Duncan, Edmond Malek (who is with the Royal Canadian Navy in Victoria) and Jordan Campbell, also from Victoria. All finished at 4.0-1.0. Top unrated players were Robert Flores and Jeremy Weeres at 3.0-2.0.



Paul Leblanc, Jayden Vu, Jordan Campbell and Edmond Malek; Robert Flores

### **Quesnel Chess Nuggets** (March 22)

Held at the Quesnel Library, this Chess Nuggets rated event was won by Patrick Courtin of Wells ahead of Robert Orlaw, Kirk Morgan, and Justin Aney (all Quesnel). [Crosstable](#)

### **LIC Winter Rapid** (March 15)

A total of sixty-eight players participated in the latest rapid event organized by [Lulu Island Chess](#), held at the Roma Hall in New Westminster on March 15. The thirty-four player [Open Section](#), including nine over 2000 and seven with titles, was won by CM Neil Doknjas with 5.5/6. Tied for second were FM John Doknjas and Ryan Tomilin, just ahead of CM Jorge Nunez Asencio and NM Yidong Chen. Tommy To won the [U1600 Section](#), Arjun Thazhathu Veetil was second and Moses Li and Daniel Musakhanyan tied for third. And the only perfect score was achieved by Cody Lin in winning the [U1200 Section](#), Lorenzo DelliSanti was second with Stefano DelliSanti and Brody Lin sharing third. Thirty-three players also took part in the adjunct [Blitz](#) event: Neil again finished at the top of the table, this time with IM Bindi Cheng, Yidong Chen was third and Moses Li was top U1600.

### **RCC Elite Championship** (March 9)

This classical event (four games at 50 + 10) was held at the Tasty BBQ and Beer Bar, the other side of the Burrard Street bridge from the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, and attracted forty-nine players in three sections. Arpak Worya Mohammed Qanee held a considerable rating advantage over the rest of the [Open Section](#) and unsurprisingly won with a perfect score; Clement Cheng was second despite only playing one game, and Daniel Deng, Sylvain Gaudreau, and Joanne Wangluo tied for third. The [U1600 Section](#) saw a three-way tie for first between Watson Wang, Jason Boyce, and Peter Lei, and the [U800 Section](#) witnessed another perfect score, this time achieved by Cody Lin. Brody Lin was second, and Jules Dupre, Matthew Launay, and Pengyu Chen all scored 3.0 points.

### **Langley Chess Club** by Brian Davidson

The Langley Chess Club has started 2025 strong, with a five-round classical tournament, and a very strong unrated blitz event. The rated [classical](#) saw a two-way tie for first between Stephen Forde and 2023 club champion Kai Johannes Kwabi with 4.0/5 each, with Stephen winning their head-to-head game. The winners split the \$50 prize and each received a one-month Diamond Membership to chess.com.

The one-night [blitz](#) tournament was held on March 3, and it drew three titled players and a total of five players rated above 2100. Van Thanh Nguyen and Quang Long Le tied for first with unbeaten 6.0/7 scores, followed by Penny Pham at 5.5. This is the second one-night blitz the club has held, and special one-night events are planned for the first Mondays each month. April 7 will be a puzzle night, where players will be solving puzzles and keeping score for prizes. The puzzles will be presented by NM Brian McLaren.



WIM Penny Pham enjoying her round 2 encounter with Stephen Forde

### **BCJCA Spring Rapid** (March 2) by Abigail Wang



The British Columbia Junior Chess Association's ([BCJCA](#)) first rapid of the 2025 year was held on March 2 at BCIT Burnaby Campus and attracted a total of fifty players. In the [Open Section](#), Viktor Musakhyan placed first with a score of 6.0/6. Frank Zhou followed with 5.0/6 and Daniel Zhu with 4.5/6. In the [U1100 Section](#), Daniel Musakhyan also placed first with a score of 6.0/6. David Ren followed with 5.0/6 and Isaak Wong with 4.5/6. Prizes based on ages were also given out: Liz Chen won K-3 girls, Yuhong Chen won K-3 boys, Marko Radic won 4-6 boys, Brady Li won 7-9 boys, and Conall Hampton won 10-12 boys. Finally, Raine Rughani was awarded the top unrated prize. Congratulations to all the winners and we hope to see everyone back at an upcoming rapid!

## **41<sup>st</sup> Cappelle-la-Grande Open** (February 15-21)

BC junior Elliot McCallum was among the five hundred and thirty-three players participating in this year's Cappelle-la-Grande International, which over the years has grown to become one of the world's largest open tournaments. Joint winners were IM Mahel Boyer (France) and GM Panneerselvam Iniyan (India) with 7.5/9; Elliot gained 86 rating points for his score of 5.0 points.

[Standings](#)

## **Team BC Ready for 2025 Alberta Match** by Paul Leblanc, President

I am pleased to announce this year's team for the annual match against Alberta to take place 2-4 May in Salmon Arm: IM Ray Kaufman, NM Keith MacKinnon, NM Jason Yidong Chen, Niccoló Baldeschi, Justin Xu, Zachary Liu, Lucas Yao, Scott Morgan, Henry Yang and Barath Subramanian Suresh. As usual the match will share the same playing venue and schedule as the Okanagan Open.

## **Kelowna Chess Night on Tuesdays**

Grant Rice (of **Kelowna Downtown Library Chess - Thursdays 6pm to 8pm**) would like to pass on the following information about a **Tuesday** night chess group in Kelowna:

The Kelowna Beer Institute is hosting Chess Night on Tuesdays starting at 6pm. There is a wings deal as well of \$10. Lots of fun with new and seasoned players. Location is 1346 Water Street or across from the Court House in Kelowna by the boat launch. Here is the Whatsapp link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LO6JNCHnAiXLInBgYsleQ8>

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## **BCYCC** (March 22-23)

Held like previous events at the Bonsor Recreational Complex in Burnaby, the two-day five round tournament attracted two hundred and thirty players in sections determined by age and gender (although some sections were combined for pairing purposes). Sponsored by Penny Chess Club and Burnaby Junior Chess Club, this was the organizational swansong for the [Chess2Inspire](#) Association; after running the BC Junior since 2014 and the BCYCC since 2017, they have decided to take a step back from running these major events. Special thanks to Michael Lo, Lara Lo,



Ryan Lo, Ron Hui, Jeremy Hui, An Yu, Ping Yu and all the others who helped make these events a success over the years. [Crosstables](#) [photos](#)

U8 Open

- 1 Karson Lu
- 2 Xavier Zhang
- 3 Ethan An

U12 Open

- 1 Bowen Wu
- 2 Kai Zhongkai Zhang
- 3 Braynan Zhang

U16 Open

- 1 Aadit Arya
- 2 Joey Xu
- 3 Minjun Koo

U8 Girls

- 1 Yaswitha Suresh
- 2 Linara Wickramasinghe
- 3 Amaira Soni

U12 Girls

- 1 Zoya Singh
- 2 Sofia Vigurs
- 3 Anny Peng

U16 Girls

- 1 Dorsa Shaeri
- 2 May Wangluo
- 3 Tinyuet Zou

U10 Open

- 1 Elliot McCallum
- 2 Moses Li
- 3 Daniel Zhu

U14 Open

- 1 Zhengyu Chen
- 2 Justin Gao
- 3 Erwin Jun-Han Mok

U18 Open

- 1 FM Ethan Song
- 2 FM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang
- 3 Kaiqi Qin

U10 Girls

- 1 Evelyn Lou
- 2 Ava Chen
- 3 Tiffany Trang Tran

U14 Girls

- 1 Joanne Xu
- 2 Caitlin Wang
- 3 Chelsea Tang

U18 Girls

- 1 Emma Mohammadi

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**LIC Classical 2** (March 2)



Following in the same mould as Lulu Island Chess Classical 1 back in January, edition 2 attracted seventy-three participants to Roma Hall in New Westminster, many of them repeat attendees. Back

in January CM Neil Doknjas tied for first with FM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, closely followed by brother John; [this time round](#) Neil was clear first on 5.0 points, while FM John Doknjas and CM Jorge Nunez Asencio tied for second. Just off the podium were FM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, NM Yidong Chen and Ashton Taylor, all with 4.0 points. In the [U1900 Section](#) Chengyu Chen and Ryder Hsu were clear first and second respectively, but five players tied for third: Sophia Doroshenko, Zi Tian Chen, Moses Li, Jesse Law, and John David Moje. While in the [U1500 Section](#) the situation was reversed, with Karen Chen, Kanish Raj Sathish Raj, and Minh Quan Pham all tying for first with 4.5 points. And in the adjunct [Blitz](#) IM Bindi Cheng, who had finished well down the field in the Premier, gained some measure of revenge by claiming first having given up only a single draw; Ashton Taylor, CM Neil Doknjas, FM John Doknjas, and Barath Subramanian Suresh tied for second.

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## ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS AGO: CHESS IN THE CARIBOO

The early history of chess in B.C. is largely undocumented. When the province's fledgling cities grew large enough, organized chess followed almost as a matter of course, e.g., the Victoria Chess Club in 1892. However, before that time chess, along with horse racing, gambling, and other more adventurous activities, served as a social outlet from the hardships of pioneer life, and thus is not often mentioned in contemporary sources. One important early account, describing what was presumably B.C.'s first chess tournament, occurs as a letter to the editor of the Victoria newspaper The Daily British Colonist of March 18, 1865:

To the editor of the *British Colonist*

Williams Creek, 18th February 1865

Sir,

It may not be uninteresting to your readers, at least that portion of them who are chess players, to receive an account of a chess tournament which lately took place among the players on the creek.

A public notice was put up by some of the most enthusiastic players that a meeting for the purpose of getting up a chess tournament would be held on the 10th ult. At this meeting twelve gentlemen gave in their names as competitors for the championship. It was decided that the players should be 10 divided into pairs by ballot, to play five games, and the first three games won by either of the contestants to decide between them; the winners of these first games to be again paired off to play a like number of games, and so continue to pair off until only one winner remained, who should be declared the champion of the tournament.

Accordingly the players in the first ballot were as follows:

J.A. Fraser vs. D. McNaughton

J. Elliott vs. B. Bellenbur

Jas. T. Steele vs. W. Reynbow

W. Dodd vs. E. Hodgens

J.S. Thompson vs. J. McLaren

[the sixth pairing, presumably involving John Adair, is missing from the original]

Second Ballot

J.A. Fraser vs. John Elliot [sic]

John Adair vs. James T. Steele

Edward Hodgens vs. J.S. Thompson

### Third Ballot

The players were now reduced to three, Messrs. Thompson, Fraser and Steele. On drawing for partners the lot fell upon Messrs. Thompson and Fraser to play together and the winner to play Mr. Steele. In this match Mr. Fraser was again the winner. This gentleman had now played three matches without losing a single game, and his friends felt confident that he would come out the victor in the next, but his opponent Mr. Steele proved a tough customer, and after playing five well contested games, they stood two each the fifth one having been a drawn one; then came the deciding game of which I annex a copy, which was won in good style by Mr. Steele, who was accordingly declared the champion of the tournament.

I am, yours, &c.                      A Chess Player

### Fraser, J.A. - Steele, J.T. [C55] Williams Creek, 10.02.1865

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Ne4 6.0-0 d5 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Qxd4 Bc5 10.Qd3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Ng5 12.Nb3 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Qe7 14.Bf4 Bb6 15.Qg3 Qe6 16.Kh1 d4 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Bg5 Rd7 19.f4 Re8 20.Rfe1 Qf5 21.Bf6 g6 22.Qh4 d3 23.Qh6 Bxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Qg4+ 25.Kh1 Qf3# 0-1



Heron claim miners, 1867; the gentleman third from the left is John Adair  
Image (A-03819) courtesy of the Royal BC Museum and Archives



Williams Creek was the focus of the Cariboo gold rush of the 1860s. Inundated with miners and other individuals hoping to make a fortune, the creek acquired several towns almost overnight, including Marysville, Cameronton, Richfield, and the best known, Barkerville, which claimed to be the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. [At its height, Barkerville and environs had a population of some ten thousand; by comparison, Victoria's population at the beginning of the gold rush was substantially less than a thousand.]

The site of the tournament is not given by the correspondent; the first library in Williams Creek had opened in Cameronton in 1864, so it seems likely the event was publicized via the library, if not actually played there. The format, a series of knockout matches, had been standard since London 1851, and was only gradually supplanted by the round robin in the coming decade. With a minimum of sixteen "rounds" apparently occurring on the same day as the tournament was organized (the letter specifies that the printed final game was played on February 10), the games must have been played at a pretty fast rate. One wonders about the level of play at that speed; although the published game is relatively well-played, this may just reflect on the abilities of the finalists.

And what of the players? There is no way of knowing for certain if they are the same persons, but there is a J. McLaren and J.A. Fraser buried in the Barkersville cemetery. John McLaren was a grammar school headmaster before coming to the Cariboo in 1864; for a time he edited the local newspaper, the Cariboo Sentinel. He was killed at age thirty-one by a slide of sand and tailings in 1869. John Alexander Fraser was the fourth son of explorer Simon Fraser; he came to Cameronton in 1864 as an engineer. Money woes over his family's mortgaged farm and an unhappy love affair led him to commit suicide on May 20, 1865 - he was thirty-two. The next day one of the companies he had invested heavily in struck a rich lead. A James Steele worked for John Cameron's company, and can be identified in a photo of the latter. There was also a Steele Claim on the creek, said to be the richest piece of ground in the area; in 1861 it was producing thirty to forty pounds of gold a day.

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

**RCC CYCC Qualifier #1**

Richmond, April 4 [Details](#)

**Chess-Squash Championship**

Abbotsford, April 5 [Details](#)

**Fraser Valley Rapid 15**

Langley, April 5 [Details](#)

**BC Rapid Championship**

Burnaby, April 6 [Details](#)

**April 7 Puzzle Night**

Langley, April 7 [Details](#)

**Surrey Junior Rapid #2**

Surrey, April 12 [Details](#)

**Vancouver Chess Festival 11**

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

**Grand Pacific Open**

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

**RCC CYCC Qualifier #2**

Richmond, April 25 [Details](#)

**PCC Open 4 (CYCC Qualifier)**

Burnaby, April 27 [Details](#)

**Langley Chess Club Spring Classic**

Langley, April 28 onwards [Details](#)

**BC – Alberta Match**

Salmon Arm, May 2-4 [Details](#)

**Okanagan Open**

Salmon Arm, May 2-4 [Details](#)

**Spring Rapid**

Qualicum Beach, May 10 [Details](#)

**RCC Elite Championship #3**

Vancouver, May 11 [Details](#)

**RCC CYCC #3**

Richmond, May 16 [Details](#)

**Paul Keres Memorial**

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

**Washington Open**

Redmond, WA, May 24-26 [Details](#)

**Okanagan Valley Rapid 4**

West Kelowna, May 24 [Details](#)

**PCC Open 5 (CYCC Qualifier)**

Burnaby, May 25 [Details](#)

**BC Interschool Championship**

Langley, May 31 – June 1 [Details](#)

**Greater Vancouver Chess Tournament 8**

Burnaby, June 7-8 [Details](#)

**Intermat BC-WA Scholastic Match**

Burnaby, June 8 [Details](#)

**Fraser Valley Rapid 16**

Abbotsford, June 14 [Details](#)

**BC Senior Championship**

Surrey, June 20-22 [Details](#)

**Fraser Valley Classical 3**

Langley, June 21-22 [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](#)

**Ultimate Chess Club League**

Langley/Surrey, Sept. – Dec. [Details](#)