

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #467

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

World Open (July 2-6)

The fifty-third edition of the World Open took place at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia. The main event in six sections attracted over eleven hundred participants, including from the province FM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, FM Ethan Song, Nathan Ping-Ying Wu, and Severo (Juni) Caluza. Going into the last round in the Open Section there were six players tied with 6.5 points, including Canadian GM Razvan Preotu. Four of them agreed to quick draws to finish with 7.0/9, but on board three seventeen-year-old Indian GM Bharath Subramaniam won his game to claim clear first and \$20,500; the other who tied for second (including Razvan) 'only' earned \$4,700. Ryan finished with 5.5 points, Ethan 5.0. [Tournament website](#) [USCF standings](#)

FIDE World Cup Cadets (June 23 - July 3)

Last year FIDE introduced a new official event to their tournament calendar, a world cup for lower youth age categories (U08, U10, U12). Originally the world cup format, a knockout event consisting of two-game matches, was used to determine the FIDE World Champion; it has since evolved to produce qualifiers to the candidates' tournament. One of the main drawbacks for players participating in a knockout is that once they lose a match, they are out of the tournament. This has been



alleviated in this event by using two stages. The first stage consists of groups of twenty-four (actually sometimes more or less), two per age category (both open and girls), designated A and B. Each group was run as a seven-round Swiss with the final place determined by various tiebreak criteria. In stage two each ranked player in group A competed in a two-game match with the corresponding player from group B – 1A vs. 1B, 2A vs. 2B, and so on. If still tied after the classical portion, games at progressively faster time controls were used to break the deadlock, as in the usual world cup.

For this second event, held like the first in Batumi, Georgia, eleven Canadians participated, including Karson Lu (Open U8 A) and Barath Subramanian Suresh (Open U12 A) from BC. With some exceptions (Adhvik Aravinthan and Zachary McDonald Chua) most of the [Canadians](#) underperformed. After [stage one](#) Karson, initially ranked second, placed twelfth with 3.5 points and was paired against Yuxuan Wang (China) from the B group. They split the [classical](#) portion at one win a piece, but Karson lost the [rapid](#) playoff 0.5-1.5 to place twenty-fourth. Barath placed nineteenth in [stage one](#); but lost his [stage two](#) match to Alexandre Ghonghadze (GEO), finishing thirty-eighth overall.

Lu, Karson (1759) – Oniani, Giorgi [E20] FIDE World Cup Cadets U08 Batumi (5.7), 27.06.2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 0–0 5.e3 c6 6.Nf3 d5 7.a3 Be7 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Bb7 12.0–0 Ba6 13.Re1 Qb6 14.Qe2 Nb8 15.Na2 Nbd7 16.b4 Rfd8 17.a4 Rab8 18.Rc2 Nf8 19.a5 Qb7 20.Rec1 Rbc8 21.Ne5 Rd6 22.Qf3 Rd5 23.Nxc6 Rc7 24.e4 Rdd7 25.Bf4 e5 26.Bxe5 Bd6 27.Bxd6 Rxd6 28.e5 Re6 29.d5 Nxd5 30.Qxd5 Rd7 31.Qf3 Ng6 32.Be4 Kh8 33.Nxa7 Qb8 34.Rc8+ Bxc8 35.Rxc8+ Qxc8 36.Nxc8 Nxe5 37.Qe2 Nc4 38.Nc3 Rd2 39.Qf1 Rd8 40.Bd5 Ree8 41.Bxc4 bxc4 42.Nb6 Rb8 43.Ncd5 Rb7 44.b5 Ra7 45.a6 Re5 46.Nc8 Rxd5 47.Nxa7 1–0

Del, Nikita (1675) – Suresh, Barath Subramanian (1804) [B90] FIDE World Cup Cadets U12 Batumi (3.8), 25.06.2025

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.g4 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Bc4 Bb4 11.a3 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 0–0 13.a4 Nxc3 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.Bd2 Bxc4 16.Bxc3 Nc6 17.Na5 Nxa5 18.Bxa5 Rd5 19.Bb6 Rc8 20.Rd1 f6 21.f3 Kf7 22.Rh2 Ke6 23.Rhd2 g6 24.Kf2 Rxd2+ 25.Rxd2 Bd5 26.Kg2 Rc3 27.Rf2 Bc6 28.a5 h6 29.Bd8 f5 30.Bb6 g5 31.Ba7 Kf6 32.Bb6 Kg6 33.Ba7 h5 34.gxh5+ Kxh5 35.Bb8 e4 36.Ba7 exf3+ 37.Kg3 Be4 38.Bd4 Ra3 39.Bb6 Ra1 40.Rd2 Rc1 41.Bd4 f4+ 42.Kh2 f2 0–1

Fraser Valley Classical 3 (June 21-22)



The [Fraser Valley Chess Academy's](#) third classical event of the year was held at their headquarters in Langley and attracted fifty-two entrants. Rating-wise two players were far above the rest of the [Open Section](#) field, NM Yidong Chen (who won Classical 1 back in January with a

perfect score) and Nick Beqo. They met in round 4, Nick was victorious, and went on to claim first prize with 6.0/6 while Yidong had to content himself with clear second. At a considerable distant was Lahan Thathmira Wickramasinghe who placed third with 3.5/6. The [U1500 Section](#) saw a tie for first between Felix Fang and Beck Wang, both scoring 5.0 points, while Dmytro Makogonsky was a full-point behind in third. And there was another perfect score in the [U1000 Section](#) as Timofey Malyshev swept the field, newcomer Dalton Evans was clear second and Abdullah Shaikh, Aadya Telikicherla, and Azlaan Saad tied for third with 4.0 points. Finally Yidong Chen got a measure of revenge by winning the adjunct [Blitz](#) tournament with 6.0/6, Aniket Kathpal was second on 4.5 points, and Jiarui Li, Robin Hayer, and Felix Fang tied for third.

BC High School Chess Championships (June 1) by Gillian Mok



On June 1, 2025, the BC Junior Chess Association (BCJCA) held its annual BC High School Chess Championship tournament, a provincial competition that attracts more than two hundred of the most talented high school chess players. Regional qualifiers occurred from February to April 2025 with forty-five participants representing the top nine high school chess clubs meeting at BCIT in Burnaby. The high school chess clubs that made it to the championship tournament this year are: Centennial Secondary School, Collingwood School, David Thompson Secondary, Esquimalt High School, Elgin Park Secondary, Fraser Heights Secondary School, Lord Byng Secondary, Moscrop Secondary School, and Terry Fox Secondary School.



Congratulations to Lord Byng Secondary School for winning gold in the championships with a perfect score! David Thompson Secondary School won silver, and Fraser Heights Secondary School won bronze. Special thanks to all the Lower Mainland high school chess clubs and their members for participating in this year's BC High School Chess Championships and Qualifier events. [Crosstable](#)

More information about the tournament or future BCJCA events can be found on its website at: <https://bcjca.ca> or on its instagram account @bcjrchess. The BCJCA is a student-led organization representing sixty-plus secondary school chess clubs from across British Columbia with the goal of bringing together youth players through tournaments and to promote a more connected high school chess community. For more information, contact: Email: info@bcjca.ca; Instagram: @bcjrchess; Website: <https://bcjca.ca>

LULU ISLAND CHESS CLASSICAL #3 (June 28-29)



Chess returned to the Roma Hall in New Westminster for the third in a series of classical events organized by [Lulu Island Chess](#). The event attracted its largest field yet, one hundred and four participants who competed in three sections, each a six-round Swiss at 50 + 10. Half of the players in the [Open Section](#) were rated over 2000, including IMs Bindi Cheng and Raymond Kaufman, but it was top-ranked FM John Doknjas who gave up just two draws in taking clear first with 5.0/6. A half-point back were the trio of CM Neil Doknjas, IM Raymond Kaufman, and Leo Qu (also eligible for the U2200 prize). Henry Yang and Justin Xu achieved NM norms.

Top-ranked in the thirty-two player [U2000 Section](#) were the father and son duo of Kai and Daniel Wang. They met in round five with in this instance experience winning out over youth; Kai also won his last game to complete a clean sweep of the section. Jofrel Landingin was clear second, Chris Mackay clear third, and Owen Yuen, Peter Qian Cheng, and Ethan Jun Low tied for the U1800 prize. Finally, a similar pattern emerged in the [U1500](#) with Micah Chow clear first, Joanne Xu clear second, and Leo Lei, Dyllan Garcia, and Peter Christiansen sharing third.

BC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (June 20-22) by Paul Leblanc

**13th Annual BC Championship Draws Record Attendance
FM Paul Ross Returns to Chess with Aplomb**



A true chess family

One of the largest senior chess championships in Canada (the 2025 Quebec equivalent saw sixty players), this year's event drew forty-seven entries, an increase of six from last year's BC record. For several years the tournament has found a hospitable home at the Surrey Comfort Inn and the Baseline Pub. In response to popular demand the championship has been expanded from five rounds to six (20-22 June). FM Paul Ross, currently living in Victoria chooses his tournaments carefully – on average one every seven years and we were honoured to have him join the senior chess fraternity.

Paul Ross finished clear first with 5.5–0.5, drawing with BCCF Webmaster Scott Morgan in the last round. Scott finished clear second. Top U1800 was Richard Ingram on 4.5–1.5. Top U1500 was Reynando Potutan at 3.5–1.5. The prize fund was \$1,700 with an additional travel grant of \$1,000 to the highest finisher to attend the 2025 Canadian Senior Championship (yet to be scheduled). The Senior Championship received generous grants from the BCCF and Neale Monkhouse. The event was organized by Victoria Chess.

[Crosstable](#)

(left: arbiter Brian Davidson, FM Paul Ross, organizer Paul Leblanc)



Ross, Paul (2287) – McLaren, Brian (2040) [A90] BC Sen 13th Surrey (5.1), 22.06.2025

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.g3 Bd6 5.Bg2 f5 6.O–O Nf6 7.b3 Qe7 8.a4 Nbd7 9.Ba3 O–O 10.Bxd6 Qxd6 11.Na3 b6 12.Qc2 Ne4 13.e3 Bb7 14.Rfd1 g5 15.Qb2 g4 16.Nh4 Ng5 17.f4 gxf3 18.Nxf3 Qe7 19.Nxg5 Qxg5 20.Qf2 Rae8 21.Qf4 Qe7 22.Nc2 Nf6 23.a5 Bc8 24.axb6 axb6 25.Bf3 Rd8 26.Ne1 c5 27.Nd3 cxd4 28.exd4 dxc4 29.bxc4 Rd7 30.Ne5 Rc7 31.Rab1 Ba6 32.Nc6 Qg7 33.d5 exd5 34.cxd5 Bc8 35.d6 Rd7 36.Rxb6 Kh8 37.Ne5 Ra7 38.Qd4 Nd7 39.Nxd7 Qxd4+ 40.Rxd4 Bxd7 41.Rc4 Re8 42.Rb2 Ra6 43.Rd2 Re6 44.Rcd4 Kg7 45.Kf2 Kf6 46.Rd5 Re5 47.R5d4 Re6 48.Bb7 Rb6 49.Ba8 Ra6 50.Bf3 Rb6 51.h3 Re5 52.g4 fxg4 53.Bxg4 Bxg4 54.hxg4 Re8 55.d7 Rd8 56.Kg3 Kf7 57.Kf4 Rf6+ 58.Kg5 Rg6+ 59.Kh5 Ke7 60.Re2+ Kf7 61.g5 Rc6 62.Rf4+ 1–0



**Gulbinowicz, Mark – Morgan, Scott
BC sen 13th Surrey (2), 21.06.2025**

Black to play and win (answer at end)

Rook + Bishop vs. Rook: A Masterclass in Precision by Nick Beqo

The rook and bishop versus rook endgame is one of the most challenging and instructive endgames in chess. It's teetering on a razor's edge—one slight misstep can mean the difference between a draw and a win. Though often ending in a draw with best play, this endgame demands intense precision, deep understanding, and excellent time management, especially under tournament conditions.

Why It Matters

This endgame appears more often than you'd expect in practical play. I had this endgame in both Fraser Valley Classical 2 and Fraser Valley Classical 3 tournaments. Knowing the key ideas and defensive resources can turn an inevitable loss into a miraculous save—or convert a hard-fought advantage into a full point.

The Cochrane Defense (aka the "Cochrane Position")

One of the cornerstone positions in this endgame is known as the Cochrane Position, a theoretical draw discovered by 19th-century player John Cochrane. It represents the optimal defensive setup for the weaker side (the lone rook) and is a lifesaver when used correctly.

Characteristics of the Cochrane Position:

The king of the defending side is cornered on the short side of the board. The rook supports the king from the long side, usually from behind. The attacking side cannot force the king out of the corner without risking perpetual checks or blunders. This defensive setup—while known to grandmasters—is incredibly tricky to execute without prior practice. That's why it's often used in endgame training for advanced players and titled competitors.

Mastering the Endgame

Studying this endgame isn't just about memorizing moves—it develops: board vision and spatial awareness, coordination between pieces, time management, nerves and accuracy under time pressure. Many elite coaches recommend spending time with this endgame to improve your endgame technique and overall chess maturity.



13.Ke5 If the Rook waits along the g-file with 13.Rg8 then you do the same on the 4th rank, 13...Rb4 14.Rg1 Ra4 **13...Kh3!** The Black king moves away from the White king and on opposite colour of the bishop. If 13.Ke3 Kh5! (13...Ra5+?? 14.Kf4 Ra4 (14...Rh5 15.Rg1) 15.Rh7#) **14.Rg1 Rb4 15.Be3**



15...Rg4!! Critical position: by offering the rook exchange Black releases his king from the edge. This key move is what Svidler missed in a game against Magnus Carlsen and cost him the point. You can watch that game on [YouTube](#) **16.Ra1 Kg2** The Black king gets out of the edge of the board. **17.Bf4 Rg8 18.Ra2+ Kf3 19.Ra3+ Ke2 20.Ke4 Re8+ 21.Be5**



21...Re7 22.Ra2+ Ke1! Cochrane Position has been reached! 23.Kd4 Kf1! 24.Bf4 Re2! 25.Ra8 Kg2 26.Be3 Rb2 27.Ke4 Rb4+ 28.Bd4 Kg3 29.Rg8+ Kh4 Cochrane Position has been reached again!

Nick Beqo FIDE Instructor For private coaching you may visit:
www.facebook.com/share/p/1CKQJCsFGT/

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

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](#)

BC Summer Chess Festival

Vancouver, August 1-3 [Details](#)

BC Day Open

Victoria, August 2-4 [Details](#)

Kelowna Summer Rapid Championship

Kelowna, August 7 [Details](#)

August 11 Puzzle Night

Langley, August 11 [Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 17

Langley, August 16 [Details](#)

Langley Open

Langley, August 30 – September 1 [Details](#)

Ultimate Chess Club League

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

[1...Rf2 2.Kxf2 Qxh2+ 3.Ke3 Qf4# 0–1]