

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #475

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.



BC Chess Federation

Happy New Year everyone!

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

Fraser Valley Rapid #19 (December 21)



(Photo by Chess Maps)

Despite a number of other events also taking place on the same weekend, the Fraser Valley Chess Academy's nineteenth rapid event attracted a total of fifty-one players to their home location in Langley. There were no entrants rated over 2000, which allowed the A-class players and others the opportunity to fight for the top prizes. After six rounds of 15 + 10 it was Daniel Zhu who found himself at the head of the [standings](#) with 5.5/6, having given up just a single draw to Warren Wiebe in round four. Clear second was Chris Mackay with Kaiser Nguyen third; Ron Novosselsky was also a prize winner. In contrast the [U1200 Section](#) saw a three-way tie for first between Abdullah Shaikh, Dulina Senath, and Haoyang (Rowan) Lei, while Andres Mariategui was Top Unrated. At the end twenty players also took part in seven rounds of [Blitz](#) where the winners were Warren Wiebe, Aniket Kathpal, and Daniel Zhu.

BC Top Youth Classic 1 (December 20-21)



On the same weekend the Penny Chess Club hosted an event for strong (2000 rating plus) juniors in Vancouver. Average rating of the ten-player field was 2112, making the tournament more akin to the BC Junior in the 1980s when the event was held as a round robin. The time control was composite, three rounds of 50 + 10 on the Saturday followed by two games at 90 + 30 on the Sunday. The field was topped by FM Jingyun (Ryan) Yang and NM Zachary Liu; Ryan won their individual encounter in round three but lost to Barath Subramanian Suresh in round four while Zachary won both his games on Sunday. As Ryan had also given up a draw to Joey Xu in round two it was Zachary who won the event with 4.0 points, Ryan was second with 3.5, and Barath placed third on tiebreak after he and Joey both finished on 3.5/5. [Standings](#)

Yang, Jingyun (Ryan) (2385) – Liu, Zachary (2224) [B22] BC Top Youth Classic 1 (3.1), 20.12.2025

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.dxc5 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 a5 8.Be3 Nd5 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Nbd2 a4 11.Bxc6 Bxc6 12.Kc2 Nxe3+ 13.fxe3 e6 14.b4 0–0–0 15.Ne5 Be8 16.Rad1 f6 17.Nec4 Kc7 18.Nf3 Bg6+ 19.Kb2 Be7 20.Nd4 Bf7 21.Nd6 Bxd6 22.Nb5+ Kc6 23.Nxd6 Bg6 24.b5+ Kc7 25.Ka3 h5 26.h4 Rd7 27.Rd4 Ra8 28.Rhd1 e5 29.R4d2 Rdd8 30.e4 Bh7 31.Kb4 Bg8 32.b6+ Kb8 33.Nf5 1–0

Liu, Zachary (2224) – Xu, Joey (2018) [C06] BC Top Youth Classic 1 (4.2), 21.12.2025

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 cxd4 8.cxd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.0–0 Qc7 12.Bg5 0–0 13.Rc1 Bd7 14.Ng3 Bf4 15.Bxf4 Qxf4 16.Bb5 Nb8 17.Bxd7 Nbxd7 18.Qe2 Ne4 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Nd2 Nf6 21.h3 Rad8 22.Nb3 b6 23.Rfe1 Rf7 24.Qc2 g5 25.Re3 Kg7 26.Rce1 Qf5 27.Qe2 Rd6 28.f3 exf3 29.Rxf3 Qg6 30.Qe5 Rc6 31.d5 exd5 32.Nd4 Rc4 33.Nf5+ Kh8 34.Nd6 Rcc7 35.Ref1 Rfe7 36.Qxf6+ Qxf6 37.Rxf6 Rcd7 38.Nf7+ Kg7 39.Nxg5 h5 40.Ne6+ Kh8 41.Rh6+ 1–0

Washington Winter Classic (December 20-21)

A new tournament to your editor although it has been held previously, the Washington Winter Classic took place in Bellevue, WA and attracted at least eight players from this province, more than participated in the better-known Washington Class Championships: Don Hack, Martin Lorenz,

Karsen Lu, Dahlia Quinn, Gideon Tang, Julian Tang, Ashton Taylor, and Tristan Taylor. The Classic consisted of five rounds of 90 + 30 squeezed into two days, along with a couple of scholastic events and a blitz tournament. Among the winners were Gideon Tang who tied for first in the U1800 Dasher Section (Washington organizers like to give their sections descriptive names) with 4.0/5, Don Hack was Best Senior in the U1400 Prancer Section, Dahlia Quinn won the round 2 Biggest Upset Win in the Dasher Section, and Ashton Taylor won a Best Dressed prize on day two of the Rudolph Open. [Standings](#)

LIC Invitational #3 (December 13-14)

The first two Invitationals run by Lulu Island Chess took place during the summer and were both six-player round robins. This time round the field was expanded to twelve players with ratings mostly over 1900 but also including three in the 1850-1900 range. Six rounds were played at a fast classical time control (50 + 10) and all the participants were either juniors or recent juniors. Despite being initially ranked eighth it was Shaunavon Mu who was the clear winner, scoring 5.0/6 and boosting his rating 180 points. Lucas Yao was alone in second a point behind while Kate Jiang and Harms Reece tied for third. In the end the twelfth player was unavailable so only eleven took part; site was the executive boardroom of the Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond, home of the upcoming BC Open. [Standings](#)

Langley Fall Classic (October 27 – December 8)



(Photo by Chess Maps)

The latest classical event at the Langley Chess Club took place at the rate of one round a week on various Mondays between October 27 and December 8 at the home of the club, the Brookswood Senior Centre in Langley. Twenty-three players participated, and after five rounds four of them were tied for first place with 4.0 points (in tiebreak order): Stephen Forde, Mark Gulbinowicz, Brian Sullivan, and Aniket Kathpal. Fifth a half-point back was James Kerry. The [Winter Classic](#) starts on January 12. [Standings](#)

Esquimalt Rapid (December 7)

Held in the Craigflower Room of the Esquimalt Recreation Centre, the Esquimalt Rapid attracted forty-four participants for six rounds of 25 + 5. Veteran NM Roger Patterson gave up a single draw

to top-ranked Zachary Burrows during round four in achieving the score of 5.5/6 to claim clear first place, a half-point ahead of Daryl Hora and David Armstrong who tied for second. Top U1700 was Josh Miller with 4.5 points (\$75), while Darrend Brown (top U1500) and Divyam Puri (top unrated) both scored 4.0 points. The biggest upset prize went to Daisy Brown for beating an opponent rated 528 points than herself. [Standings](#)

PCC Monthly Rapid (December 7)

The latest Penny Chess Club rapid tournament and meetup, the third in the series, saw the same winner as the other two – house IM Quang Long Le. Yes, Long has been the top-ranked in each event by a considerable margin, but his record of 15.0/15 in the three events is still impressive. Tied for second in the eleven-player [Premier Section](#) were Ryan Leong and Zhengyu Chen with 4.0 points, while Xavier Zhang and James Fu were a further point back. Another perfect score was registered in the [U1400 Section](#), this time by Ella Wu, who finished one and a half points ahead of Mitch Stookey, Alistair Cheung, Alex Luczynski, and Marc Kuo who tied for second.

RCC Elite Rapid (December 7)

The December edition of Richmond Chess Champion's monthly Rapid event attracted twenty players in two sections. Jordan Szeto held a large rating advantage over the rest of the [U1600 Section](#) and duly converted this into first place with a perfect score, Yucheng Liu was clear second on 3.5 points, and Andrew Li and Mingrui Wen tied for third with 2.5. In the [U800 Section](#) the winner was top-ranked Zhou Fang who came just ahead of second placed Arvin Mingjun Li and Oscar Yulang Shi.

Washington Class Championships (November 28-30)

This year's Washington Class Championships was won by Texas GM Vladimir Belous with a perfect 6.0 out of six. The number of Canadians competing was smaller than usual, likely due to the SPICE Cup and SPFNO beforehand serving as a larger attraction, but Don Hack, Jimmy Rao, Lucas Yao, Aiden Yin, and Andrew Yin did take part. The Championships include a large number of side events, and in the [Carlsen](#) Rapid Championship Lucas Yao placed clear fourth in the Kasparov 1600+ Section behind FM Stephen Willy, GM Belous, and two-time Washington Champion WIM Megan Lee. Lucas also placed clear fourth in the Chess 960 competition. [Standings](#)

National Arbiter Seminars

- 1) There will be a National Arbiter Seminar in Victoria on Saturday, January 17 from 10am to 4pm. Attendance and passing the test will earn a norm towards the NA title. Attendance is free. Contact Paul Leblanc (pc-leblanc@shaw.ca) to register. Flyer: [Wright-NA2026.pdf](#)
- 2) IA/IO Hal Bond and FA Heidi Gay are pleased to announce an upcoming National Arbiter (NA) Seminar for January 2026. This seminar will be virtual on Zoom. The seminar is open to all interested in chess arbitration, and can be counted towards the requirements for the National Arbiter title. Space is limited to 25 participants. [Details](#) – registration is full but there is a waiting list.

BASIC ROOK ENDINGS by Nick Beqo

Lasker Position



White to move and win

Note that the Black Rook protects its King from the checks on the 4th rank and the Lasker Method does not work.

Answer:

1.Kg7 (1.Rc4?? Rxc4 and Black wins) Rg4 2.Kf8 Rg2 Only now White can implement the Lasker method: 3.Ke7 Re2 4.Kf6 Rf2 5.Kg6 Rg2 6.Kh6 Rf2



White to move and win

Answer:

White wins with the Lasker Method: 7.Rc4 Kh3 8.Kg6 Rg2 9.Kh5 Rf2 10.Rc3 Kg2 11.Rxc2

Keres Position



White to move and win

In this position Lasker concluded with 1.Ra3 Kg2 2.Rxa2 Kf3 and 3.Ra7 winning. Then Keres said, what about 3...Re6, how does White win after 4.Kg5 Ke4?



White to move and win

If 1.Rd7? Ke5 and Black draws (Kf6 if White moves the King, Kd6 if White moves the Rook).

Answer:

1.Rb7! When in doubt play a waiting move Now Black is in zugzwang! If 1...Kd5 2.Kf5 (2.Rd7? Ke5=) 1...Ke5 2.Rd7 Ke4 ** To be continued **

Nick Beqo, FIDE Instructor

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ARBITER'S CORNER #6 – Promotion by Brian Davidson

At the 2017 Canadian Closed Championship, a failed pawn promotion in the blitz final between IM Nikolay Noritsyn and GM Bator Sambuev showed that even an International Master may not always be fully versed on the rules. Tied at 8.0/9, the two combatants played the blitz final to see who would represent Canada at the upcoming World Cup. Noritsyn was down to seven seconds on his clock when he promoted a pawn, but seeing no queen, he put an upside rook on the promotion square. The arbiter stopped the clock and turned the rook right side up and explained the piece was a rook, regardless of whether it was doing a headstand or not. Sambuev promoted to a queen on the next move and eventually won. The exception to the upside-down rook rule is in games played in the USA, under USCF rules, which considers that to be a queen. [There was a similar occurrence involving Arpak Worya at the 2019 Canadian Senior, see [Bulletin #381](#)]

I have been called to games where a player has promoted in a way his/her opponent disagrees with. Sometimes a player will push the pawn forward, then replace it with the new piece. Other times a player will simply put a queen (or other piece) on the promotion square, then take away the pawn. Both are correct ways to promote. An example of an incorrect promotion would be to push the pawn to the eighth rank, then hit the clock without replacing the pawn with a new piece. This is considered an illegal move and would be penalized accordingly. In my experience, irregularities like these are much more likely when the player – like Noritsyn – is panicking about time.

Things to remember:

- 1) Unless you are in the USA, a rook is always a rook and only a queen is a queen.
- 2) You have the right to stop the clock when promoting, if the piece you want isn't available (Laws of Chess 6.12.b).
- 3) As long as the pawn has turned into a new piece on the correct square, promotion can be done different ways.

As a post mortem on the Noritsyn-Sambuev game, the queen Noritsyn wanted to promote to was in Sambuev's hand under the table, and he was absent-mindedly fidgeting with it. When the promotion took place, he quickly tossed it on the table but it was too late.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO

On considering B.C.'s involvement in international chess during the Cold War period, the event that immediately comes to mind is the 6-0 drubbing of Soviet GM Mark Taimanov by the American soon-to-be world champion Robert J. Fischer in Vancouver, 1971. However, Vancouver also hosted another international match at the very beginning of the cold war, a team match between members of the Vancouver Jewish Chess Club (V.J.C.C.) and Soviet naval officers who were stationed in North Vancouver.

The V.J.C.C. only came into existence in the fall of 1945. The club was founded by two ex-Winnipeggers, [Dave Creemer](#) and [Abe Helman](#), presumably using the Winnipeg Jewish Chess Club as a model. The catalyst was likely Helman, as Creemer had been living in Vancouver since 1942. A former Manitoba Champion, Helman arrived in Vancouver in 1945 and subsequently won the 1947 and 1948 B.C. Championships before his premature death in 1952 at age forty-four.

"The newly organized Jewish Chess Club will have the rare privilege to be host to a number of Russian Officers of the Red Fleet, who happen to be temporarily stationed in North Vancouver. A friendly chess match with seven players a side is arranged for Wednesday, December 26th, at 7:30 p.m., in the club rooms at the Community Centre. The following are the players of the Jewish team: A. Helman, D. Creemer, F. Atnicoff [sic - Atnikov], W. Sapiro, A. Braverman, W. Eisenstein. Visitors are very welcome." [Jewish Western Bulletin, Friday, December 21, 1945]



[Image courtesy of the Jewish Historical Society of B.C.]

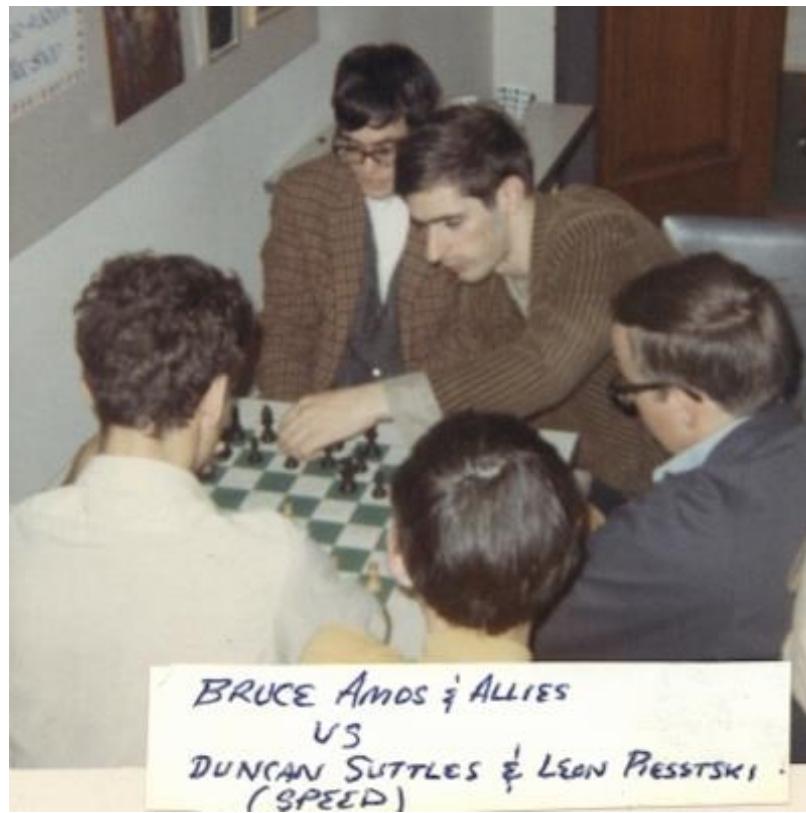
"A friendly chess match held between a team of Russian Naval Officers and the Vancouver [Jewish] Chess Club on December 26th, will long remain in the memory of the community as a very pleasant event. Over a hundred spectators followed with great interest and enthusiasm the progress of the games. The match ended with a score of 5-2 in favor [sic] of the V.J.C.C. The chairman, Mr. D. Creemer, introduced Mr. A. Helman to welcome the Russian players. Mr. Helman reviewed briefly the progress of Soviet chess in the last twenty-five years, and stated that the aim of the newly organized Jewish club is to promote the royal game of chess in the city of Vancouver, and asked for moral support from the general public to assist in building a club that will be a proud asset to the Jewish community. Refreshments were served after the match and a toast to the Russian team was made by Mr. Robinson. Lieutenant Glotoeunski replied on behalf of the Russians, thanking the club for the welcome extended to them and expressing the hope that there would be another chance for a return match. He stated that events of this nature help to strengthen

the friendship between Canadian people and the Soviet Union." [Jewish Western Bulletin, Friday, January 4, 1946]

The lopsided victory is not surprising: Helman and Creemer were former Manitoba champions, while Frank Atnikov (another ex-Winnipegger - he played for Winnipeg in a telegraph match with Vancouver in 1927) was a former Winnipeg city champion. Ironically both Helman and Creemer were born in Russia, but emigrated to Canada in the early 1920s due to the pogroms and political upheavals in Eastern Europe after the First World War. During the Second World War the Soviet authorities were too occupied with the war to be thinking much about anti-Semitism, but this changed in 1948 with the fabricated conspiracy known as the 'Jewish Doctor's plot.' So the match was fortunate to take place at just the right historical moment - after the world war but before the cold war and anti-Semitism became too intense.

DUNCAN SUTTLES AT EIGHTY

BC and Canadian chess icon Duncan Suttles was born in San Francisco on 21 December 1945 and has thus just marked his eightieth birthday – many happy returns! In celebration we offer an [article](#) by Bruce Harper previously published a number of times in these pages, also a 1994 [interview](#) with Suttles.



Duncan Suttles at the 1969 Canadian Championship in Pointe Claire, Quebec, an event he won, but in this case apparently playing a tandem version of speed chess; photo via Harold Tootosis.

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

New Year's Open

New Westminster, January 2-4 [Details](#)

RCC Friday Chess Storm

Richmond, January 9 onwards [Details](#)

Victoria Championship

Victoria, January 9-11 [Details](#)

BC Chess Cup

Burnaby, January 10-11 [Details](#)

BC New Year's Chess Festival

Burnaby, January 17-18 [Details](#)

PCC Rapid and Meetup

Burnaby, January 25 [Details](#)

RCC CYCC Qualifier #2

Richmond, January 25 [Details](#)

RCC Elite Rapid Open

Richmond, January 25 [Details](#)

BC Rapid Championship

Burnaby, February 1 [Details](#)

Kelowna Winter Rapid

Kelowna, February 7 [Details](#)

BC Open

Richmond, February 14-16 [Details](#)

PCC Rapid and Meetup

Burnaby, February 22 [Details](#)

RCC Elite Rapid

Richmond, February 22 [Details](#)

LCC Winter Quads

Langley, February 23 onwards [Details](#)