

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #476

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

3rd Club Caissa Guatemala (January 7-11)

Founded in 2010 by a group of businessmen and chess fans to promote the game through local tournaments, the Club Caissa is located in Guatemala City and this year held an international event for the third time. Among the one hundred and fifty entrants were eleven GMs and six IMs, including from this province IM Raymond Kaufman. After nine rounds GMs Brandon Jacobson and Lazaro Bruzon Batista (both USA), Yuri Gonzalez Vidal (Cuba), and Nikola Mitkov (North Macedonia) all tied for first with 7.0 points. Raymond was among the six players who tied for fifth a half-point back, along with GMs Neuris Delgado Ramirez (Paraguay), Azer Mirzoev (Azerbaijan), and Aryan Tari (Norway), FM Winston Darwin Cu Hor, and CM Brayan Alexis Garcia Y. (both Guatemala). [Standings](#)

Linares Orellana, Hector Jose (2106) – Kaufman, Raymond (2259) [B13] Caissa Guatemala op 3rd Guatemala City (9.9), 11.01.2026

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Qc7 6.Na3 a6 7.Nc2 e6 8.Nf3 Bd6 9.0–0 Nge7 10.Ne3 f6 11.c4 0–0 12.cxd5 exd5 13.Qc2 Kh8 14.Bd2 f5 15.Rfe1 f4 16.Nf1 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Bc3 h6 19.Qb3 Qf7 20.N1d2 b5 21.a3 Rab8 22.Rac1 a5 23.Ne5 Nxe5 24.dxe5 Bc5 25.e6 Qa7 26.Re2 d4 27.Bxa5 Rbc8 28.Qd3 Qxa5 29.b4 Bxb4 30.Rxc8 Rxc8 31.axb4 Qxb4 32.Qxf5 Qxd2 33.Qf8+ Rxf8 34.Rxd2 Re8 35.Rxd4 Rxe6 36.h4 f3 37.gxf3 Rb6 38.Rb4 Kg8 39.Kf1 Kf7 40.Ke2 Ke6 41.Ke3 Kd5 42.Kd3 Kc5 43.Kc3 Rf6 44.f4 Ra6 45.Kb3 Ra4 46.Rxa4 bxa4+ 47.Kxa4 Kd4 48.Kb4 Ke4 49.Kc4 Kxf4 50.Kd4 h5 51.Kd5 Kg4 52.Ke5 Kxh4 53.Kf5 g5 54.f4 g4 55.Ke4 g3 56.Kf3 Kh3 0–1

New Year Open (January 2-4)

The last few years has seen the development of a chessic double-header in these parts, Fraser Valley Chess Academy's Goodbye to the passing year just before New Year's (see below) and Lulu Island Chess' New Year Open immediately after. This year's third edition attracted almost one hundred and forty players in total to Romas Hall in New Westminster, split between three sections and a blitz event; nine rounds in all cases, with the open being 'fast' classical (50 + 10). Fully twenty of the players in the [Open Section](#) were rated over 2000, topped by FM John Doknjas. John gave up four draws to finish with 7.0 points and claim clear first, a half-point ahead of the rest of the field. Tied for second with 6.5 points were Kate Jiang, Tristan Taylor, and Zachary Liu, while alone

in fifth was organizer Ryan Leong. Three players fulfilled the requirements for the National Master title: Ryan, Kate, and Henry Yang – congratulations.



(photo by [chess maps](#))

Jesse Law was the clear winner of the [U1800 Section](#) with 7.5/9, James Fu was second, and there was a four-way tie for the remaining prizes between Watson Wang, Dane Sperling, Anny Peng, and Zichun Xiao. Andrew Li, Martina Szeto, and Ella Wu were the three prize winners in the [U1300 Section](#). And the [Blitz](#) was won by Leo Qu on 7.5 points ahead of FM Koosha Jaferian, NM Yidong Chen, and IM Quang Long Le. [LIC website](#)

Cornerstone Holiday Norm Invitational

Organized by IM Josiah Stearman and held in Sunnyvale, CA (near San Jose), this series of norm events included multiple GM and IM sections at the turn of the year, December 26 to January 4. One participant in two of the events was CM Neil Doknjas. [IM Norm B](#) (December 26-30) was won by IM Diego Flores (Peru) and FM Rose Atwell (USA) with 7.0 points each, while Flores improved on his score in [IM #2 Norm A](#) (December 31 – January 4) by a half point to win the section clear. Neil scored respectively 3.5 and 4.0 points in the two sections.

Doknjas, Neil (2242) – Nasta, Kiren Vivek (2200) [D94] Cornerstone Holidays IM Norm B Sunnyvale (5.5), 28.12.2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.e3 0–0 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 c5 9.0–0 cxd4 10.exd4 Nc6 11.d5 Na5 12.h3 Nxb3 13.axb3 e6 14.d6 Bd7 15.Bg5 f6 16.Be3 Bc6 17.Bc5 e5 18.b4 Qd7 19.Nd2 Qe6 20.Nb3 Nd5 21.Na5 Nxc3 22.bxc3 Bd5 23.c4 Bxc4 24.Nxc4 Qxc4 25.d7 Rfd8 26.Be7 Qd4 27.Qxd4 exd4 28.Rxa7 Rxa7 29.Bxd8 b5 30.Bc7 1–0

Goodbye 2025 FIDE Classical (December 26-30)

Now in its third year, this tournament hosted by the Fraser Valley Chess Academy gave players the opportunity to participate in a nine-round FIDE-rated event with a long time control, 90 + 30.

Forty-two players took up the challenge in two sections, Open and U1500. Top ranked in the [Open Section](#) was NM Yidong Chen and he duly placed first but not without some adventures. Leading the field by a full point after five rounds was Edmonton's Yanchen Zheng, who had won all his games, but at this point he returned to Edmonton to play in the Daniel Naroditsky Memorial which occupied the same final weekend. He received two half-point byes for the remaining four games for a total of 6.0 points, but this allowed Yidong to pass him in the final stretch to claim first with 7.0 points. Second a half-point back was Reece Harms who drew with Yidong in round six. Despite missing the last four games Yanchen still placed third on tiebreak, tying with Seshadri Sai Sowmiya Narayanan who drew with the top two finishers, gaining 177 rating points. Top U1700 was Ryan Li.



(photo by [chess maps](#))

Winner of the seventeen-player [U1500 Section](#) was Tianyou Huang with an almost perfect 8.9/9, second was Kriyaansh Banatwala while tied for third was Martina Szeto and Fu Wa Chong, Martina receiving the medal on tiebreak. Finally Zhengyu Chen and Daniel Yu Ang Zhu tied for first in the [Blitz](#) event while Iurii Pleskach, Yanchen Zheng, and Samuel Lu tied for third – thirty-three players participated.

35th North American Open (December 26-30)

The thirty-fifth edition of the North American Open took place at the Horseshoe Casino Resort in Las Vegas during the Christmas break. A number of players from this province participated, including Severo Caluza, Kevin Taikai Liu, Zachary Liu, Aiden Lu, Karson Lu, Erwin Mok, FM Ethan Song, Liam Tu, Nicholas Wu, Lucas Yao, Aiden Yin, and Andrew Yin. In the Open Section there was a massive ten-way(!) tie for first between GMs Abdimalik Abdusalimov, Ehsan Ghaemmaghami, Koustav Chatterjee, Aditya Sachin Samant, Jianchao Zhou, and Santiago Avila Pavas, and IMs Eytan Rozen, Mukhammadali Abdurakhmonov, Amilal Munkhdalai, and Alexander Ross Katz, they all received \$2,880 each. [Tournament website](#) [USCF standings](#)

2025 BCCF Chess Player and Supporter of the Year by Paul Leblanc

We are pleased to announce that **Victoria Doknjas** was voted **2025 Chess Supporter of the Year** by the Executive for her hard work and dedication to bring the 2025 Canadian Open and CYCC to BC for the first time in 13 years.

We are also pleased to announce that **Karson Lu** was voted **2025 Player of the Year** for winning the under 8 age group at the CYCC, 1st place at the North American YCC and tie for 2nd at the World Cadet. Karson gained over 700 rating points in 2025.

The Man in the Red Beret

Recently a chess film was released on Netflix, [The Queen of Chess](#), a documentary on the life of Judit Polgár. Another chess documentary was released a few years ago which may have escaped your attention, *The Man in the Red Beret*. It tells the story of Jude Acers: "He wears a red beret to make it easy for folks to find him on a busy New Orleans French Quarter street, where he's set up a folding table and a couple of chessboards since 1981. He takes on all comers for \$5 a game. He's probably the most famous chess player you've never heard of-until now." It may be watched for free at the [Fawesome](#) site or for a fee on [Prime Video](#).

VICTORIA CHAMPIONSHIP (January 9-11) by Paul Leblanc



Close to capacity turn-out at the Commonwealth Rec Centre. (all photos: Nigel Hanrahan).

Sixty-six players competed in the annual Victoria Championship on 9-11 January. This year the event was opened up to players from outside Vancouver Island and ten mainlanders joined in with the islanders including the winner, FM Duc Minh Lai. He is studying at the University of Toronto for the current semester and will return to Vietnam on completion. He made short work of all his opponents, agreeing to a short draw with NM Roger Patterson in the last round to clinch first place with 4.5 points in five rounds. Duc Minh was generous with his time, offering pointers to his opponents after each game.

Four players tied for second place in the [Premier Section](#), NM Roger Patterson of Victoria, Karson Lu of Vancouver, Raymond Manguerra of Victoria and Nikolai Zarikoff also of Victoria, all with 4.0-1.0. Patterson, Manguerra, and Zarikoff, highest scoring local players were declared 2026 Victoria co-champions and will have their names engraved on the Victoria Cup. Nicolai Zarikoff also won the Top U1750 prize.

In the [U1550 Section](#), local player William Kunwei Ma was the surprise winner at 4.5 out of 5, gaining almost 300 rating points in the process. May Wanglou of Richmond and Kaamran Hafeez of Gabriola Island tied for second. Top unrated player was Jenna McPherson of Victoria and top woman was Martina Szeto of Richmond.

Tournament Director was Nigel Hanrahan, NA. Organizer was Paul Leblanc, NA.



First place winner, Duc Minh Lai



Fighting spirit. Karson Lu (left) putting every possible effort into trying to win an opposite-colour bishop ending during the last round with most players already gone home. In the end he managed to defeat Tamir Bulga.

ON BECOMING A SENIOR CHESS PLAYER by National Candidate Master Vas Sladek

Like career decline, becoming a senior chess player is inevitable. The day is coming for everybody. I officially made the transition this fall when I joined the Dogwood Senior Society chess club in Coquitlam (1655 Winslow Ave) for \$10. The chess club meets on Mondays from 12:30-4:30 in a quiet, clean, and bright room overlooking a rose garden. And it has been fun. The old dudes play non-stop skittles, so you will not see a single chess clock anywhere. When I casually mentioned organizing a rated tournament, the room froze for a split second. Every time I walk in, one of the players forgets who I am, so I must politely re-introduce myself. Jeez. But the old dudes are clearly enjoying themselves and it is great to see.



The last game I played was against B. who went into a deep, deep think in this position playing with the Black pieces. With his hands and hat completely covering his face, he took so long to play 1. ...Rg1, I briefly considered alerting the front desk ladies.

B. resigned after 2. Rd7+; the h-pawn will drop, and the two minor pieces are stronger than a rook.

There is a cafeteria in the complex with limited operating hours, but it does employ special needs young people, which is nice to see. Washrooms are to the left of the cafeteria. And if you are single, the large number of 65+ ladies will please you. Buy a scone and go mingle. Or go back to the chess room and re-introduce yourself to the players. I am planning to shake things up in 2026 with tournaments, matches and simul. If you are a titled player (NM, FM, IM) interested in an easy simul exhibition, please e-mail me at ncmvas@icloud.com.

If you are getting close to becoming a senior chess player, fear not. It will be a fun ride.

THE VICTORIA CUP



T.T.D.A. Chess Trophy for Victoria Chess Championship

Previously a trophy for the Victoria city championship, the Victoria Cup is still awarded to the highest finishing Victoria player in the annual Victoria Open Championship.

The tournament for the 1936 Victoria city championship was announced in the *Daily Colonist* of 12 January 1936 as follows: "Open to residents of Victoria and vicinity, the annual chess championship tournament will get under way on Friday, January 24...Donated by the Tourist Trade Development Association, the challenge cup bearing its name, will go to the champion."

So that at least explains the T.T.D.A. acronym. But why was a tourism organization donating a chess trophy? Tourism had been an important part of Victoria's economy since the end of the nineteenth century, when it was found the capital city could not compete with Vancouver in terms of commerce and industry. In the 1930s the importance of tourism was considered even more crucial in combatting the effects of the Great Depression, and five-time Victoria Mayor David Leeming was "an ardent believer in the value of the tourist business to the city and Vancouver Island, he was unstinting in his efforts to advance the interests of the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau." Another organization which Leeming helped found in late 1934 was (to give it its full name) the Tourist Trade Development Association of Victoria and Vancouver Island. Serving as the T.T.D.A.'s general secretary was one Thomas Henry or (in some sources) Tollemache Heriot Eslick, a self-proclaimed architect/engineer of amusement parks on five continents. To what degree Eslick's C.V. is to be trusted is open to [debate](#), but it is apparent his strongest abilities were in the areas of publicity and public relations.

One event which the T.T.D.A. sponsored was a Winter Fair, held 4-7 December 1935 at the Bay Street Armoury. The *Victoria Daily Times* of 30 November 1935 published an article highlighting the fair, including the following paragraph: "A giant chess tournament will be one of the unusual features of the fair. On an eight-foot board, and with chess men built in proportion, members of the Victoria Chess Club [i.e., City Chess Club] will take on all comers. A.G. Moody, captain of the club, is co-operating with Mr. Eslick in staging the event. Seats will be erected around the table, so that visitors may watch the play which will go on continuously during the four days of the fair. A silver cup will be presented to the winner of the tournament. Mr. Eslick and Tom Ainscough will also play a game during the fair."



This photograph was in the papers of Daniel MacAdam, with the caption "Mr. A.G. Moody moving a black bishop, about 1935;" we cannot be absolutely certain of the occasion, but the image matches

the information given in the newspaper. The article also indicates T.H. Eslick knew how to play, as did Mayor Leeming; another former Victoria Mayor and longtime member of the Victoria Chess Club, William Marchant, coincidentally died during the fair, and the Victoria Daily Times of 6 December 1935 quoted Leeming: "Always a great chess player, Mr. Marchant and I had many enjoyable games, and I look back with some pride upon a victory I scored over him in a city championship several years ago." Eslick's fair opponent, Thomas Edward Ainscough, was a founder and first president of the new City Chess Club which emerged in 1932 and quickly supplanted the older Victoria Chess Club (although press reports frequently confused the two entities, as above).

The fair article also mentions the awarding of a silver cup to the tournament winner. Given that the fair and by extension the cup was sponsored by the T.T.D.A., the subsequent Victoria city championship trophy was also donated by the T.T.D.A., and there can't have been too many silver cups in circulation in the economically depressed 1930s, it follows the two mentioned trophies are one and the same – the silver cup awarded at the 1935 Winter Fair is now the Victoria Cup awarded to the top city resident in the Victoria Open.

The first name engraved on the cup is that of Lawton Partington, winner of the Victoria city championship tournament announced in the first quote at the beginning of this article. Yet press reports of his victory indicate this was not the first time he had won the trophy: "Lawton Partington, city chess champion, successfully defended his title on Friday evening when he defeated K.S. Patrick in the final, 2 to 1.... He again holds the Tourist Trade Development Association Cup symbolic of the championship, having won the city honours last year. [Daily Colonist, 29 March 1936]" As we have no other reference to a city championship in 1935 other than the competition to be held on a giant board in conjunction with the Winter Fair, presumably that tournament served as the city championship for that year, although why this is not recorded on the cup is unknown. Incidentally Partington's opponent mentioned in the final, K.S. Patrick, was a member of the older Victoria Chess Club rather than the City Chess Club which Partington belonged to, indicating the competition was definitely city-wide rather than just a club championship.

BASIC ROOK ENDINGS by Nick Beqo



White to move and win

Answer:

1. **Rd1 Kf3 2. Rf1 Ke2 3.Rf7 Ke3 4.Kf5 Re4 5.Kf6** and the White King goes to f8.



White to move and win

If the Black King is on the same file as the White pawn the winning method is to allow Black to promote and checkmate the Black King:

Answer:

1. Kd7! Rd1+ 2. Kc7 Rc1+ 3. Kb7 a1=Q 4. e8=Q+ and checkmate in 13 moves



Another variant: White to move and win

Answer:

1. Kf7! Rf1+ 2.Kg8! (if 2.Kg6? Rf6=) 2... a1=Q 3.e8=Q+ and mate in 12 moves



And another variation: White to move and win

Answer: 1. Re2+ and White wins

1... Kd3 2.Kd8! Kxe2 3.e8=Q+ and mate in 16
1... Kf3 2.Kf8! Kxe2 3.e8=Q+ and mate in 16

ARBITERS' CORNER #7 – SUFFICIENT/INSUFFICIENT MATERIAL by Brian Davidson

Most players reading this will know the general idea that if your opponent runs out of time, you must have sufficient mating material on the board or the game is a draw. The rule states “the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player’s king by any possible series of legal moves.” If you have a heavy piece - queen or rook - or a pawn that can turn into one, that is sufficient material for it to be a win.

Where it gets tricky is with minor pieces. If your opponent has a bare king, then two minor pieces will suffice; even though a mate with two knights cannot be forced (unlike the infamous two knights versus pawn), a mate is possible by legal moves and therefore is considered a win. If each player has a knight, that is a win (see diagram), as is a knight against a bishop, or if each player has an opposite-coloured bishop. The mating positions can't be forced and are extremely unlikely to occur, but they can happen by legal moves and therefore the material is sufficient for a win.



The US Chess Federation doesn't adhere to these rules, and chess.com tends to follow the USCF, so you may find yourself getting a draw in the USA or online in a position FIDE would call a win. The CFC plays by FIDE rules, as does most of the world, so it's useful to know about this. Here is the FIDE chart showing what is sufficient material.

Player who runs out of time	Opponent's Material	Result
K+Q	K+N or K+B	Draw
K+R	K+N	Win
K+R	K+B	Draw
K+N	K+B	Win
K+N	K+N	Win
K+B	K+N	Win
K+B	K+B (opposite colour)	Win
K+B	K+B (same colour)	Draw
K+Q+P	K+N or K+B	Win

(Source: FIDE Arbiter's Manual 2025)

If you find yourself in a game ending in a flag fall, and material on the board is scarce, call an arbiter to judge the position. I know of a recent game where the opponent loudly "claimed" a draw in a lost position, and his young opponent accepted it, not wishing to make a scene.

[Incidentally, the same stricture (“the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player’s king by any possible series of legal moves.”) applies in situations other than flag falls. It is also relevant in situations where two illegal moves have occurred which would normally be a win for the opponent, also when there is a resignation but the opponent does not have a legal method of checkmating. One case where it does not apply is with losses due to a player’s cell phone making a sound – here the result is always a loss, no matter what the position/material on the board.]

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

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](#)

BC February Frosty Chess Festival

Vancouver, February 21, 28, March 1
[Open](#), [Rapid](#), [Blitz](#), [Bughouse](#)

Enchanted Labyrinth

Grand Forks, February 27, [Details](#)

BC Top Youth Chess Classic

Vancouver, March 14-15, [Details](#)

BC Youth Chess Championship

Burnaby, March 21-22, [Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, April 3-6, [Details](#)