

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #114

Your editor welcomes welcome any and all submissions - news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to B.C. players. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this issue.

To subscribe, send me an e-mail (swright2@telus.net) or sign up via the BCCF webpage (www.chess.bc.ca); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

[Back issues of the Bulletin are available on the above webpage.]

RECENT NEWS

Junior Opens

Two more junior opens have now taken place at Sprott-Shaw College in New Westminster, organized by Ken Jensen with the assistance of a small army of helpers. For results, crosstables and photos, see <http://www.bjdy.com/juniorchess/news.html>.

Moscow Open

WFM Valeriya Gansvind finished with 5.5/9 in Group B of the Moscow Open; the story of her section was ten-year-old Ilya Nyzhnyk, who took first prize with 8.5/9 and a performance rating of 2633! Valeriya lost to him in round five.

Crosstable: <http://www.chess-results.com/Tnr5469.aspx?tnr=5469&art=4&lan=1&turdet=YES&mm=1&m=1>

North Shore Open

A disappointing six players attended this event, held at the Mollie Nye House in North Vancouver on February 3rd. Despite this the tournament was hard-fought and enjoyed by those who were there. Hanneign Pitre of Seattle won first prize with 3/3 after downing Joe Oszvald in the second round, who subsequently shared second place with rising junior Foster Tom. Joe Oszvald was the organizer, Stephen Wright the TD.

International Chess Jam

Three Canadians, Tanraj Sohal, Jonah Lee, and Alexander Tsang made the trip to Ferndale, Washington for the tenth annual Chess Jam, and all three won prizes. Congratulations!

Crosstables: <http://www.whsca.org/ChessJam.html>

FIDE Title

And congratulations are also extended to Valer Eugen Demian, who was recently awarded the title of FIDE Instructor: http://www.fide.com/news/download/FIDETrainersTitles_1PB2007.pdf.

Howard Wu Simul

B.C. Co-Champion Howard Wu gave a twelve-board simultaneous exhibition at the Victoria Chess Club, scoring +8 =1 -3. Further details and photos can be found at the club's website, <http://victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Simul>.

LESSONS FROM GMSLUGFEST PART 5 by Jonathan Berry

Sorry for missing two issues of the BCCF Email Bulletin. Previous installments were in numbers 108 through 111. I'm afraid that the game this time is quite fathomable. The fault lies rather in work habits, which for me sometimes resemble nothing more than an energetic nun.

For round 5, on Sunday, the site moved to the Paragon Hotel, where out-of-town players were housed. The Paragon is peculiarly situated above a huge freeway. I'm not sure that I'd want to spend a vacation there, but it was fine for a chess tournament, especially with its wireless Internet. I had a second White against a GM, but this time I could prepare, and also the head cold had become less of a worry, though it did reduce my zeds. Oh yes. I keep omitting what the actual lessons are. What was the lesson from Round 4? Well, sometimes you get lucky, so be grateful. And of course, without being untrue to yourself or The Truth in chess, it helps to have the kind of position where you feel you have chances. Now I don't toss away a couple of knights in every game, and I don't recommend that everybody do so. Except against me.

Berry, Jonathan - Akopian, Varuzhan [C11] GM Slugfest Bellevue (5), 10.12.2006

1.e4 e6 GM Akopian's second-line defence is 1...d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 with maybe Qa5 to follow. I had prepared for that too. After the game, I opined that he should have a third defence to play against weak opponents like me. GM Akopian smiled shyly and shrugged. **2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6** According to the database, the first two players to adopt this move were V. Liublinsky at Sverdlovsk 1951 (but was that a secret Soviet tournament of the time) and Canada's own Abe Yanofsky in 1954. I well remember at the 1977 Canadian Open in Fredericton, Yanofsky kindly sat down with me to analyze my 9th round victory over James Bolton in the French Defence. I rather wish that I remembered exactly what Yanofsky told me, because as a lifelong adherent of the French, he was quite critical of the way I handled the white pieces! Anyway, Bolton played: 7...Qb6 8.Na4 Qa5+ 9.c3 cxd4 10.b4 Qc7 11.Nxd4 a6 and here in 2006 this variation is well-regarded for White (though it had been played only once prior to 1977), with Bd3, Rc1 and Qd2 leading the parade among 34 games. But I chose a move that nobody has ever emulated: 12. Kf2. **8.Qd2 b5** Akopian's opening repertoire is narrow. This position was predictable, and predicted. **9.Bd3** A natural move which has come into prominence only recently. The top U.S. player, Gata Kamsky, used it against David Pruess at Minneapolis 2005. **9...b4 9...c4** gains a tempo, but releases any central tension. Black gets a huge pawn roller on the queenside, but with scant chances of turning it to good use. White, on the other elbow, has a bit more room on the kingside, and f4-f5 could be dire, if the preconditions are right. **10.Nd1 Be7** Theory is Qb6 or cxd4. After the game, Akopian wasn't sure that the move was correct, but put yourself in his position. A GM playing against an opponent 400 points lower, wants to take the game out of book. **11.0-0 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nxd4**

13.Bxd4 Nc5



14.Nf2 Transposing to the game E.Pinter-Z.Hagarova, Slovakia 2001. Note that Pinter is not the famous Hungarian goatee GM Jozsef, but the untitled Erik. I have watched Zuzana Hagarova play. She nailed Anna Zatonskikh in a mutual time trouble game at Calvia, so is worthy of great respect. However, all of this is just database retrospection. The 2001 game continued: 14.Ne3!? 0-0 15.Qf2 Nxd3 16.cxd3 Qa5 17.Ng4 Kh8 18.Rfc1 and White went on to win. I would have been delighted to achieve such board control against Akopian. **14...a5** Elod Macskasy pointed out that beginners tend to castle too late, grandmasters castle at the right time, and ordinary masters castle too early, thus missing out on subtle ways to gain the initiative. **15.Qe3 Qc7 16.Nh1** What's the -\$ symbol for eight exclamation marks? Nah, it is just a move. I want to play Ng3, intending f4-f5 or Ng3-h5, which practically forces g7-g6. After that move, Black's pawn

structure is safer but less flexible. The knight's orbit also includes an ordinary but useful square with this pawn formation. Incidentally, I would be delighted if Black grabbed the bishop pair with Nc5xd3 c2xd3 as then I can start farming on the c-file, with c5 and c7 as possible entry squares. Black needs subtler counterplay. **16...Ba6 17.Ng3 g6 18.Rac1** I was feeling Nimzowitschian. The rook shift, from one closed file to another, is hardly mysterious, because there's always the chance that Black will take on d3, but more importantly White might be able to bring matters to a head with a timely c2-c3 or c2-c4. **18...Na4** After the game, GM Akopian thought this was a bad move. It looks like White has only a small advantage with 18...0-0 19.f5 Rfc8 20.Bxa6 (20.fxg6 fxg6 21.Nh5 Bxd3 22.cxd3 gxh5 23.Qg3+ Kh8 24.Rf7 Rg8 25.Qe3 Bg5 26.Qf2 Qxf7 27.Qxf7 Raf8 28.Qxf8 Rxf8 29.Rxc5+/-) 20...Rxa6 21.fxg6 fxg6+/. **19.Ne2 Bc5** Another Hamlet-like dilemma. If 19...0-0 20.f5 exf5 (20...Rfc8 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.Qh6+/-); without working out the details, I intended 21.Rxf5! GM Akopian was quick to point out in the post-mortem that 21...gxf5 (21...Nxb2 22.Bxb2 Bc5 23.Bd4) 22.Qg3+ Kh8 23.e6+ picks up the queen on c7. **20.b3** I was enjoying the position too much. With profligate mismanagement of the clock: 26 minutes on move 15, 17 on 16, and 24 on 19, I had only a quarter of the time left for half the moves -- or over two-thirds of the moves, if you discount the book moves that were known to each party at the beginning of the game. Anyway, the text was part of my strategy, but I missed the opportunity to play 20.Bxa6! Rxa6 21.c4 when Black stands shakily indeed: 21...bxc3 (or 21...Bxd4 22.Qxd4 dxc4 23.Rxc4 Rc6 24.Rfc1 Rxc4 25.Rxc4 Qb8 26.b3 Nb6 27.Rc6 Nd5 28.Qc5) 22.b3 Bxd4 23.Nxd4 Nb6 24.Nb5. White's position is still very good, but there is that hard-to-resist temptation to sit on a bind until the opponent threatens to break it. **20...Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Nc3** Black faces a choice of evils. 21...Nc5 22.Bxa6 Nxa6 23.c4 dxc4 24.Rxc4 Qb7 25.Rd1 (25.Ng3 and White must be better) 25...0-0 26.Ng3 Nc7 27.Ne4 Nd5+/-: **22.Nxc3 bxc3**



Objectively, 22...Qxc3 might be as good a move, but it is hard to imagine Black **winning** a quad rook ending down a pawn. **23.Rcd1** Eschewing the obvious 23.Rf3 Bxd3 24.Rxd3 Rc8 because I overlooked what GM Akopian saw, the Sally-Go-Round-the-Roses variation: 25.Rf1 0-0 26.Rff3 and White wins the c3-pawn. Black has a resource: 26...Qe7! 27.a4! (27.Rxc3 Qa3 when Black has full compensation for the pawn, and might even recover it) and White still holds the advantage after either 27...Qb4 28.Qxb4 axb4 29.Rd4 or 27...Qa3 28.Rxc3 Qa1+ 29.Kf2 Rb8 30.Qd2. **23...Ke7** The nerves of steel variation is 23...0-0 24.Rf3 Rfc8 when White not only has the game continuations, but also the related plans f4-f5, or g2-g4 followed by f4-f5, or even h2-h4-h5. Despite all those considerations, Black's king may be better placed at g8. **24.Rf3 Rhc8** **25.Bxa6 Rxg6** **26.Rdd3 Rc6**



27.g4? I had made 7 moves in 4 minutes and was hoping to get in f4-f5 and blow my opponent off the board. I completely missed that this move makes a considerable weakness in my kingside, one that Black can exploit at once. As soon as Black replied, I reasoned that I should have continued sedately with 27.Kf2. In the post-mortem, GM Akopian tried 27...h5 (27...Kf8 28.g4 Qe7 -- a recurring theme -- gives Black some resources.) 28.g3 and with h2-h3, g3-g4 and f4-f5 White was doing well. There is an interesting computer-generated chance with 28...Kf8 29.h3 Qe7!? 30.a4! (30.Rxc3? Qb4! and suddenly, amazingly, Black is better!) 30...Qb4 31.Qxb4+ axb4 32.Rd4 Rb8 33.g4 when White has all the chances. Another interesting try is 27.f5 but when you have a good position, you'd want about an hour more on the clock than I actually had before trying such a committal move against a strong player. 27...gxf5 (27...exf5 28.Rfe3 Kf8 29.Qxd5) 28.Qh4+ Ke8 29.Qxh7 Qxe5 30.Rde3 Qd4 31.Qxf5 and I like White, even through a variation such as 31...R8c7 32.Qg5 Re7 33.h4 e5 34.h5. **27...Qb6!** Played instantly. **28.Qxb6** The 13 minutes on this move are irrelevant, because no real winning chances remain for White. The indefensibility of the kingside pawns is worth the c3-pawn that Black now sheds. **28...Rxb6 29.Rxc3 Rxc3 30.Rxc3 Rb4 31.Rc7+ Ke8 32.c4 a4 33.Kf2** I am glad that Danailov was a million miles away. I wonder if this move "proves" that I have a computer chip in my skull. It turns out that my old Fritz and Rybka also consider this best, but White's trickiest chance is 33.f5: a weaker player might have gone astray with 33...exf5 (when Black draws easily with something like 33...axb3 34.axb3 gxf5 35.gxf5 Rxb3 36.fxe6 (36.cxd5 exd5 37.f6 Re3 38.Re7+ Kf8 39.h4 h5 40.Rd7 Kg8 41.Rxd5 Kh7) 36...fxe6 37.cxd5 exd5 38.Rxh7 Re3) 34.gxf5 dxc4 35.Rxc4 Rxc4 36.bxc4 gxf5 37.Kf2 Kd7 38.Ke3 Ke6 39.Kf4 f6 40.exf6 Kxf6 41.h4 h5 42.a3 Ke6 43.c5 Kd5 44.Kxf5 Kxc5 45.Kg5 Kc4 46.Kxh5+-.

33...axb3 34.axb3 Rxb3 35.cxd5 exd5 36.f5?! gxf5 37.gxf5 Rb4 38.Kf3?! The minor miscues only mean that White has the worse rather than the better half of the draw. **38...Re4 39.e6 fxe6 40.fxe6 h6 41.Rd7 Rxe6 42.Rxd5** Draw agreed: 0-1 BAP score. So, it was great to get a draw against a GM, but the position was winnable, and not just for a single move. Of course, they wouldn't be GMs if they

just lay on their backs with their pawns in the air. And the BAP score of zero was a bitter pill. With a win, I would have been fighting for the \$5, 000 first -- and only -- prize in the last round, just as Clint Ballard predicted. So even after losses in the first rounds, I have only myself to blame An interesting side note is that the tournament started with 16 players. Only the players who finished in places 1 through 10 consented to one (or more) almost-worthless draws. The uncompromising, no-draws players all ended at the bottom. The lesson of this game? Thorough opening preparation allowed a modest clock expenditure for the first ten moves. Though time management can be blamed for White's failure to win -- I'm sure I would have won an old-fashioned postal chess game! -- it can also be credited with his failure to lose. **1/2-1/2**

KELOWNA WINTERFEST 2007

Date: Saturday and Sunday February 17-18th, 2007

Location: Best Western Inn - Kelowna, 2402 Hwy 97 North, Kelowna, BC, 1-888-860-1212

<http://www.bestwesterninnkelowna.com/>

Type: 5 Round Swiss, CFC rated.

Registration: On site 8-9 am Saturday.

Rounds: Sat. 9 am, 2 pm, 7 pm; Sun. 10 am, ASAP.

Time Control: 30 moves / 90 minutes then Sudden Death / 60 minutes

Entry Fees: \$35.00, \$30.00 senior, \$ 25.00 junior.

Byes: 1/2 point byes available by request except for final round

Prizes: \$100.00 1st and \$ 50.00 second; further prizes TBD.

Contact: Grant Rice TD and Organizer, 250-979-0009, ridebike@okanagan.net

MARCH OPEN

Dates: March 9 - 11, 2007

Place: Vancouver Chess Centre, 201 - 1050 Kingsway Ave., Vancouver

Rounds: 5

Times: March 9th, 6 pm; March 10th and 11th, 10 am and 2:30 pm

Type: Regular Swiss

Time Controls: game/90 with a 30 second increment (digital), or game/120 (analog)

Byes: Rds. 1-4

Entry Fee: Adults \$30, Juniors/Seniors \$20 (non-CFC members add \$10 for tournament membership)

Prizes: \$\$BEN

Registration: In advance or at site 5:30 – 5:50 pm, March 9th

Tournament Director: Stephen Wright

Miscellaneous: One or two sections, depending upon numbers

For more information please contact Stephen Wright: 604-221-7148, e-mail: swright2@telus.net

VICTORIA CHESS FESTIVAL

A major chess festival is being organized for Victoria, to be held on the Easter long weekend.

Centred around the luxurious Hotel Grand Pacific, the festival will feature the B.C. Closed Championship, the B.C. Provincial Chess Challenge, an Open tournament plus a bughouse event.

For full details see <http://victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Victoria%20Chess%20Festival>

32nd PAUL KERES MEMORIAL



Dates	Friday, May 18 to Monday, May 21, 2007
Location	Hungarian Cultural Centre, 728 Kingsway, Vancouver BC
Sections	Open, Under 2000, Under 1600
Time Control	Game/120 + 30 second increment or game/150
Rounds	Open: 7 Rounds; U2000, U1600: 6 Rounds
Round Times	Friday 5:30 (Open Section only); 10, 5 / 10, 3:30 / 9, ASAP
Prizes	Based on entries. Unrated players may play in any section, but are only eligible for prizes if they play in the Open section. Unrated players who place in the other sections will have their entry fee returned.

Entry Fees	(Open / U2000 / U1600)
Before or on March 30, 2007	\$110 / \$95 / \$80
Before or on May 11, 2007	\$130 / \$110 / \$90
At site	\$150 / \$125 / \$100
Discounts	
Born after May 20, 1987:	50% (proof of date of birth required)
Born before May 20, 1942:	50% (proof of date of birth required)
FIDE rated players w/o Titles	25%
FIDE Titled Players	Free entry
Surcharge	\$25 extra for those players who wish to play in the Open Section, but who have a lifetime highest rating under 2000
Registration	please mail cheques (payable to BCCF) to: British Columbia Chess Federation, PO Box 15548, Vancouver, BC V6B 5B3
On-site	<u>Open Section</u> : Friday, May 18, 3:00 to 5:00 pm <u>U2000 and U1600</u> : Friday, May 18, 3:00 to 10:00 pm Saturday, May 19, 9:00 to 9:30 am
Those registering after the respective deadlines (5:00 pm Friday for the Open, 9:30 am Saturday for the other sections) may receive pot-luck pairings or a half-point bye in the first round	
Miscellaneous	CFC rated, Open Section also FIDE rated; half-point byes may be requested for all but the last round; sets and boards provided, please bring clocks.

The **BCCF Annual General Meeting** will be held between rounds on Saturday, May 21

Contact Stephen Wright, swright2@telus.net, (604) 221-7148

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior Events

Feb 17 Elementary Team Chess Championship

Mar 4 Junior Open, New Westminster

Mar 4 Victoria regional Chess Challenge

Mar 17 Vancouver Regional Chess Challenge

Mar 25 Victoria Regional CYCC

Apr 9 BC Provincial Chess Challenge, Victoria

UBC Tuesday Night Swiss

Date: Tuesdays

Location: Room 215, Student Union Building, UBC

Type: 5-round Swiss

Kelowna Winterfest 2007

Date: February 17-18, 2007

Location: Best Western Inn, Kelowna

Type: 5 Round Swiss

February Active Chess Tournament (G/30)

Schedule: 6 rounds. One or two sections depending on the number of participants.

Date/Location: On Sunday February 25th at the Vancouver Chess Centre, 201 - 1050 Kingsway Ave. It is above Dai Tung dim sum restaurant <http://www.vanchess.com/>

Entry: Fee \$15. For expert or former expert: \$12. For master \$10.

All money back in prizes minus minimum cost of rent.

Registration: 10:30 am. Games start at 11:00 am and finish around 5:30 pm.

30 minutes lunch time between round 2 and 3

You don't need to be a CFC member.

TD Luc Poitras info: gueluc@lynx.net

March Open

Date: March 9-11

Location: Vancouver Chess Centre, 201 - 1050 Kingsway Ave., Vancouver

Type: 5 round Swiss

Easter Open

Date: April 6-7

Location: Kamloops

Type: 6 round Swiss

Grand Pacific Open

Date: April 7-9, three- or two-day options

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, Victoria

Type: 5 round Swiss

Paul Keres Memorial

Date: May 18-21

Location: Hungarian Cultural Centre, 728 Kingsway, Vancouver

Type: 7 or 6 round Swiss