

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #389

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

HERE AND THERE

Gibraltar Festival (January 20-30)



The two hundred and fifty player Gibraltar Masters ended with a seven-way tie for first between (in order of tiebreak) Andrey Esipenko (Russia), Hao Wang (China), Daniil Yuffa (Russia), David Paravyan (Russia), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France), David Navara (Czech Republic), and Mustafa Yilmaz (Turkey) – they each scored 7.5/10. The tournament is one where they like to have an undisputed winner, so the first four named played a series of knockout playoffs resulting in David Paravyan taking the overall title and £30,000. Winner of the top women's prize of £20,000 was Tan Zhongyi.

The best Canadian was Raja Panjwani, whose 6.5 points included back-to-back wins against Gregory Kaidanov and Anna Muzychuk. Canadian Veteran (50+) Champion Victor Plotkin also had a good event, picking up an IM norm for his 50% score. Leon Piasetski finished with 4.0 points.

Gagare, Shalmali – Piasetski, Leon [B40] Gibraltar Masters (8.107), 28.01.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nge7 5.0–0 Ng6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Be7 8.Nc3 0–0 9.Nb3 d6 10.Be3 Bd7 11.f4 a6 12.Na4 b5 13.Nb6 Rb8 14.Nxd7 Qxd7 15.e5 d5 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Qc7 18.c3 Bc5 19.Rc1 Ne7 20.g4 Rfc8 21.Qd2 Bb6 22.Bxb6 Rxb6 23.Rce1 Qc5+ 24.Kh1 b4 25.Re3 bxc3 26.bxc3 Rcb8 27.Rh3 h6 28.f5 Rb1 29.Rhf3 Qc4 30.f6 Ng6 31.fxg7 Rxf1+ 32.Rxf1 Qxg4 33.Qxh6 Rb2 34.Rg1 Qf4 35.Qh5 Kxg7 36.Bf1 Kf8 37.Bg2 Qh4 38.Qf3 Nxe5 39.Qe3 Ng4 40.Qc5+ Kg8 41.h3 Qxh3+ 0–1

IM Ray Kaufman Lecture and Simul (February 23)

Hosted by Vancouver Chess Club, 877 Hamilton St, Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 2R7
Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 5:45pm – 9:00pm

LAST EVENT OF VAN CHESS CLUB *until further notice.

Lecture: 5:45 – 6:15pm

Simul: 6:15 – 8:15pm

Cost: Lecture \$5, Lecture + Simul \$20

<https://www.facebook.com/events/620011145238855/>

BCBASE

This database of games played in BC or by BC players elsewhere has been updated. Now with 28,046 games, the coverage has been extended to the end of 2019. The database is available in ChessBase archive (cbv) or zipped PGN formats from the [BCCF website](#).

BC TO BATTLE ALBERTA IN HISTORIC CHESS MATCH (article by Paul Leblanc)

Teams to meet in Vernon 3-5 July 2020



The idea to stage this match came to me in two parts. First, I was quite impressed by the enthusiasm of the Alberta chess community when I played in the Banff Open in November, 2019. Second, after the fourth BC vs Washington match in January in Victoria, I felt that I had learned enough about team events to examine the possibility of a match against Alberta.

There is a very small bit of history between the provinces. Stephen Wright pointed out to me that in 1949, BC won a single-round radio match 3.0 to 1.0 using ham radio operators to relay the moves. In September, 2000 a group of BC juniors met Alberta juniors on twenty-one boards in Revelstoke, playing four games in two days. BC won the match by a considerable margin. Louis Cheng, the only participant who is still active in competitive chess, remembers it was a great experience and that they had really cool t-shirts.

The greatest challenge is geography. Vancouver and Calgary are about 1,000 kilometers apart, Victoria and Edmonton even further. Any match held in either city would have a lop-sided result because of the difficulties of getting a team together to travel that distance.

The solution, as derived by the junior event in 2000, is to find a venue between the two main cities, such that either side could drive there by car in a single day. The exact centre turns out to be

Sicamous, precisely 5 hours and 27 minutes by car from each city. On investigation Sicamous did not seem to have the infrastructure to host the event, so I turned my attention to cities near Sicamous and came across Vernon. Vernon is a beautiful and vibrant city in the Okanagan Valley, a lovely spot to visit for a chess holiday in the summer. Vernon also has the advantage of an experienced chess organizer, Wally Steinke, who ran frequent tournaments there until 2008. Nearby Kelowna, as I was to find out, has three small chess clubs, a small core of players including two experts and an International Arbiter, Yumiko Hiebert. Yumiko is an interesting member of the chess community. She regularly works FIDE events around the world and resides part of the time in Japan where she is President of the National Chess Society of Japan.

The challenge was issued to the Alberta Chess Association to meet in Vernon, twenty players on each side for a five-round weekend tournament. Swiss pairings would be used, but team members would not be allowed to play each other. This is the format we settled on for the BC vs Washington matches after experimenting with the Scheveningen method of pairings for a couple of years. Alberta accepted the challenge and both the BCCF and the ACA made generous financial contributions, as did several of the Okanagan players who are very keen to re-introduce competitive chess in their area.

In addition to the match, the tournament hall in the Vernon Best Western Inn has sufficient room to hold a small side event, the 2020 Vernon Open.

For details, follow the link under upcoming events on the BCCF website. Positions on Team BC will be by invitation only. Interested players can contact me at pc-leblanc@shaw.ca. Those wishing to play in the Vernon Open need to register quickly – we are only accepting thirty entries.

I hope to see you in Vernon in July!

The various reports on the 1949 BC – Alberta radio match differ somewhat in details and spelling of player names, but the match took place on two days a week apart. The first session was on Friday February 25 (or possibly Saturday February 26), followed by a final session on Friday March 4 (or the day after). Four games were contested; all the BC players were at 2150 West 20th in Vancouver, the home of ham radio operator Don Horne (assisted by Bill Howard), while Alberta was represented by Walter Holowach of Edmonton and three Calgary players. Spencer Addeman handled the radio duties in Edmonton, Eric Anderson the Calgary airwaves. On board one Holowach, the current Alberta champion, met his counterpart from BC, Abe Helman. At one point Holowach was said to have a winning ending, yet the game ended in a draw on the sixty-ninth move. Former BC champion B.A. Yates competed against Helmer Pederson of Calgary but the game was abandoned as a draw when Yates couldn't continue after the adjournment. Another former BC champion, Charles Millar, took on Scotty Loudon; Millar won after Loudon allowed a promotion combination. And Harold Ostrom of the West Vancouver Chess Club "won without trouble" over Harry Reeve of Calgary, leaving the final score 3.0-1.0 in BC's favour.

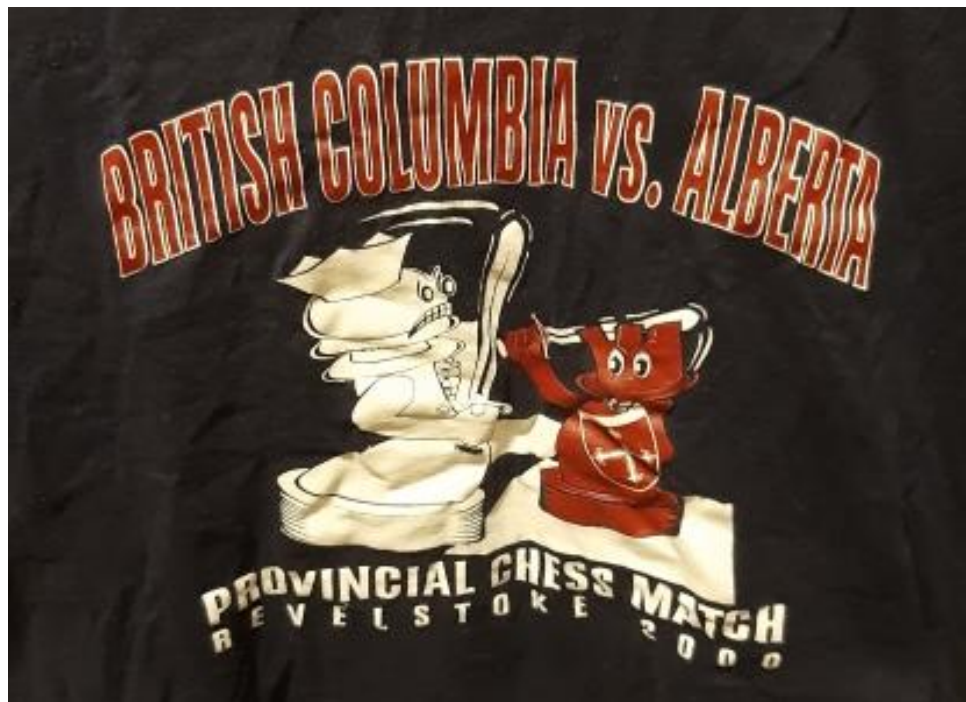


Millar

Millar, Charles F. – Loudon, Scotty [D02] Radio match, 1949

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.b3 g6 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bg7 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0–0 0–0 9.Bb2 Bg4 10.Nbd2 Rc8 11.a3 e6 12.b4 a6 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Nxf3 Qe7 15.Rc1 Rc7 16.Bd3 Rfc8 17.Rc2 b5 18.Qe2 Nd7 19.e4 dxe4 20.Bxe4 Nb6 21.Rfc1 Nc4 22.Bxc6 Rxc6 23.d5 Bxb2 24.Rxb2 Nxb2 25.Rxc6 Rxc6 26.dxc6 Nc4 27.Ne5 Nb6 28.Qc2 Nd5 29.Nd7 Qd6 30.Nf6+ Kf8 31.Nxd5 1–0

The 2000 BC – Alberta junior match in Revelstoke was based on the annual BC – WA scholastic matches, otherwise known as the Intermat. Two players from each grade compete against their respective counterparts on the other team; the difference in Revelstoke was that two games were played against each opponent, rather than the single game in the Intermat. We have been unable to find contemporary reports, all that remains are the CFC rating reports ([A](#) and [B](#)) indicating a substantial BC victory. Alberta had only one grade 12 player, and for some reason the grade 10s are missing from the rating reports (one or both sides didn't have any?). The match was not repeated, although there is this comment in the BCCF 2001 AGM minutes: “The President noted that he hoped the BC/Alberta junior match could be held over the Internet rather than large numbers of juniors travelling for hundreds of miles.”



EACH PIECE TELLS A STORY by Nathan Divinsky

[Among the papers of the late Dr. Divinsky was an incomplete manuscript for a book, *Each Piece Tells a Story*. The idea of talking to one's pieces has been recommended by various authors over the years, most notably by Stefan Becker and Karsten Müller in their ChessBase DVD *Ask the Pieces*. However, Dr. Divinsky's aim is not in terms of helping solve a position; instead, possibly in a waking dream, each individual piece describes its role and illustrates this through exemplary historical games. We will serialize segments of the manuscript periodically in future issues of the Bulletin. The original is in descriptive notation; the descriptive name for each piece has been retained, but the notation has otherwise been converted to algebraic.]

The Black King Bishop

My head had cleared completely and I was as wide awake as I had ever been in my life. I had thoroughly enjoyed the tales of the king pawns and I was curious to find out who came next.

The black king bishop was followed by the black king bishop pawn as well as by several other smaller creatures. They fussed about him as he slowly walked forward. He was a majestic figure dressed entirely in the most exquisite black silk. He had tight pants and richly woven stockings, both embellished with breathtaking lace-like embroidery. All the black pieces bowed as he passed them and he made a strange sign with his left hand as a sort of blessing. He looked at me for some time without speaking.

I have never been a religious man. In many religious people that I have met, I have sensed a certain misty faith which reflected itself by a vague look in their eyes. In others, the schemers, I have sensed a shrewd slyness. I have disliked both. Occasionally however, I have met religious people who are neither of these. They are neither sly nor limp. Pure goodness and contentment emanate from such souls. Unfortunately they occur very rarely. The black king bishop seemed to have this rare quality – tinged with a touch of sadness. I immediately took to him and I believe he sensed this.

"My dear professor, I know you are not a religious man. Even your love of the goddess Caissa, bless her, is more of an artistic passion than a religious outpouring. Nevertheless I explain this away to some extent, by your scientific upbringing. I hope that true religion will ultimately come to you. It may interest you to know that this was thoroughly discussed before we decided to present ourselves to you. As you know, we spent our last visit with a much more religious person." I felt quite disturbed by this statement.

"But love conquers all and we know that you love Caissa, bless her. One of your own inner struggles has been with the need to depend on other human beings. You have suffered much in trying to minimize this need. Please stop fighting it and accept this dependence. Clutch it to your bosom, for it is a universal law. Depend on others, that is the way of the world."

I looked at him, first in anger because he had touched a sore point, but then I realized his truth and his sincerity. I bowed my head for a moment and he knew he had hit home.

"The haughty white king pawn, as irreligious as any libertine can be, has told you of his humiliation to prove that he is honest and true. I have a different reason. I shall of course try to convince you of my worthiness as a major officer in the black army, but first I want to remind you that no matter what innate talents we have, we do depend on others. Consider this little gem by the great master Aaron Nimzowitsch. It took place in round twenty-three of the great Karlsbad tournament on Thursday September 21, 1911.

Nimzowitsch, Aaron – Dus Chotimirsky, Fedor Ivanovich [B60]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Bd7 7.Bg5 Nxe4?

A faulty combination, but who could have foreseen my personal disaster? I was busy preparing my arms, for a vigorous entry into the fray.

8.Nxe4 Qa5+ 9.c3 Qe5 10.Qe2 d5 11.Bxd5 Qxd5 12.0-0-0 Qxa2 13.Nd6+ Kd8 14.Nxc6+ bxc6
15.Nb7+ Kc8



16.Rxd7! Kxd7

If 16...Qa1+ 17.Kc2 Qxh1 18.Nc5 and we are lost – and all this goes on while I am locked in by my own troops!

17.Rd1+ Kc8 18.Qe4 Qa1+

If 18...Kxb7 19.Rd7+ Kb6 20.Be3+ c5 21.Rb7+ Ka5 22.Qc6 Qc4 23.b4+. We decided to give up our queen.

19.Kc2 Qxd1+ 20.Kxd1 Kxb7 21.Qb4+ Kc8 22.Qc4 Kb7 23.Qb3+ Ka6 24.Qxf7 Rc8 25.Qa2+ Kb7 26.Be3 c5 27.Qb3+ Kc7 28.Qe6 Kd8 29.Bf4 h5 30.c4 h4 31.Bd2 Kc7 32.Kc2 1-0

Yes, we lost, and not only did I never raise a finger to help, but I couldn't! You see how absolutely dependent I am on either the king pawn or the king knight pawn to let me out. Knights are free to wander, even our king rook who suffered almost as much as I did in this game, could have gone into action with 32...Rh5 though there was no future for him.

But let me show you what I can do when I get out. This took place at the 27th USSR Championship in 1960, round five.

Nei, livo – Bronstein, David Ionovich [C01]

1.e4 e6

Ah! Fresh air and freedom. Wonderful.” I must admit that I never quite thought of the French Defence in that LIGHT before! He smiled at me and continued:

“2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4

By far the very best variation of the French, and your friend David Bronstein knows his business.

4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nge2 0–0 7.0–0 Re8 8.Bg5 c6 9.a3 Bf8

Observe the grace and effectiveness of this manoeuvre – my pin on the white queen knight has served its purpose for we have a strong centre; and now I strengthen our king side without interfering with the action of our king rook.

10.Qd2 h6

This can now be played fearlessly, since I support it.

11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Ng3 Nd7 13.Rae1 Rxe1 14.Rxe1 Nb6 15.Re8 Bd7 16.Rxa8 Nxa8

Now we have equality, and our next task is to gain an advantage.

17.Nce2 b6 18.Qf4 Qxf4 19.Nxf4 g6 20.c3 Nc7 21.Kf1 h5 22.Ke1 Bh6 23.Nfe2 Kg7 24.Nf1 Ne6 25.Ne3 f5 26.Ng1 f4 27.Nc2 Kf6 28.Nf3 Be8 29.h4



To manufacture a win here requires great talent. Observe carefully how Bronstein goes about it.

29...Bf8! 30.Kd2 Bd6 31.Nce1 c5 32.Be2 c4 33.Bd1 b5 34.Be2 a5 35.Bd1 b4 36.axb4 axb4 37.b3

White dare not allow 37...b3.

37...Nc7 38.bxc4 dxc4 39.Be2 Bb5 40.cxb4 Bxb4+ 41.Kc1 Ba3+ 42.Kd1 Nd5 43.Nc2 Nc3+ 44.Ke1 Bb2 45.Bf1 Ne4 46.Ne5 Bc3+ 47.Ke2 Ba4 48.Na3 Bxd4 49.Nexc4 Bxf2 50.Kf3 Bc6 51.Na5 Ba8 52.Bb5 Bxh4

This is the sort of hard infighting I love.

53.Bc6 Bxc6 54.Nxc6



White hopes to take advantage of a situation that pains me deeply – the draw that occurs when I cannot help my brother the king rook pawn to queen. Why you mortals are so in love with colours and dark and light I do not understand. There should be a rule that king, bishop and any pawn versus a bare king is a win for the stronger party. But here we need not get involved in that, thank Caissa, bless her, though we must be careful. If for example 54...Kf5 55.Nd4+ Ke5 56.Nc6+ Kd5 57.Nb4+ (not 57.Kxf4 Bg5+ 58.Kf3 Nd2+ and 59...Kxc6) 57...Kc5 58.Nd3+ Kd4 59.Nxf4 draws.

54...Nd2+ 55.Kxf4 Bf2! 0–1

There is no way of preventing 56...g5 mate!"

There was enthusiastic applause and the black silked bishop bowed, smiled and returned to the ranks, followed by the king bishop pawn.

BC VERSUS WASHINGTON: THE LATE MATCHES

Three issues ago we discussed the chronology of the early BC-WA matches 1946-1948; now we turn to the end of the series, if only to introduce a rediscovered Suttles game.

The matches soon developed into two sections, an "A" division consisting of the first thirty boards, plus a flexible "B" division which comprised all the remaining players. There were separate trophies for the two divisions, that for the "A" division being a miniature replica of the Peace Arch created by D.E. Purrott of Vancouver and first awarded at the 1947 event; the "B" division trophy was a shield. That year also marked the largest number of participants, one hundred and sixty-six players on eighty-three boards!



The matches continued throughout the 1950s, but by the end of the decade both sides were experiencing difficulty attracting players, and as a consequence the "B" competitions suffered, many of them being won by default. In the early 1960s Washington in particular was having trouble fielding enough players for the thirty board "A" division (a result of the rising popularity of open Swisses): in 1960 WA defaulted on four boards, six in 1962, and nine in 1963 (BC defaulted on three boards in 1961). This Main Series ended after the 1963 match, BC writing to Washington "suggesting to suspend the annual matches until such time as interest in Washington for these events should increase." [BCCF AGM Minutes, September 28, 1963]. The matches were theoretically replaced by the Peace Arch Open, an individual Swiss event in which the scores for BC and WA players were totalled to determine the winning province/state, but that's a story for another time.

[Main Series history](#)

McCormick, James – Macskasy, Elod [E78] BC-WA m Washington, 17.07.1960

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.f4 c5 7.Nf3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nbd7 9.Be3 Nc5 10.Bf3 Qb6 11.Nb3 Qb4 12.Nxc5 dxc5 13.e5 Qxb2 14.Na4 Qb4+ 15.Bd2 Qxc4 16.Be2 Qd5 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Rc1 Qxg2 0-1



The 1961 match: Macskasy on board one, next to him the fifteen year-old Duncan Suttles; Gerry Neufahrt is observing, while Jack Taylor is at the far left.

Pupols, Viktors – Macskasy, Elod [E70] BC-WA m White Rock, 16.07.1961

[Divinsky]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 g6 4.Nc3 d6 5.Bg5 Bg7 6.e4 a6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.f4 8.Nf3 or 8.Nge2 came strongly into consideration. **8...h6 9.Bh4 Nh5 10.Nge2 g5!** A pawn sacrifice which gives Black a superior position; in view of this move White's strategy seems to be unsatisfactory. **10.Qd2 g5** would have led to a similar position as happened in a game J. Patty – Macskasy match, 1959, in Vancouver. **11.fxg5 hxg5 12.Bxg5 Ne5 13.Kd2** Despite the open h- and g-files, **13.0–0** would have been better. **13...Rg8** The threat is **14...Nxd3** followed by **Bxc3**. **14.Be3 b5!** Black opens an attack against White's king without delay. **15.Nc1 Bg4 16.Qf1 b4** A difficult decision because **16...bxc4** followed by **Rb8** was also promising. **17.N3e2 Qa5 18.Kc2 Qa4+ 19.b3 Qa3 20.Rb1 0–0–0!** Black has time for castling because it is difficult to find a constructive move for White. **21.Qf2**



21...f5! White's position scarcely became consolidated on the queenside, Black opens the b1–h7 diagonal which eventually leads to White's collapse. **22.Ng3 Nxd3 23.Kxd3 Nxc3 24.Qxc3 fxe4+ 25.Kc2 Bd4 26.Qe1 Rdf8 27.Bxd4 cxd4 28.Rb2 e3 29.Kb1 Bf5+ 30.Ka1 Be4 31.Rg1 Rf4 32.Rf1 Rgf8 33.Rxf4 Rxf4 34.g3 Rf2 35.Re2 d3 0–1**

Anderson, Tim – Wade, Dan [D26] BC-WA m Mount Vernon, 09.09.1962

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.d4 cxd5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.Bg5 dxc4 8.Bxc4 0–0 9.0–0 Nbd7 10.Qe2 Nb6 11.Bb3 Nbd5 12.Rad1 Bd7 13.Rfe1 Re8 14.Ne5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Nd5 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Qf3 Bc6 18.c4 Nb4 19.d5 exd5 20.cxd5 Nxd5 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Qxd5 [White won on move 55.] 1–0

The following game, a Rat, was located in the *Province* newspaper for August 3, 1963. Note especially the path taken by Black's queen:

Joachim, Charles – Suttles, Duncan [B06] BC-WA m White Rock, 14.07.1963

1.e4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.d4 d6 4.c3 Nc6 5.h3 e5 6.Bg5 f6 7.Bh4 Nh6 8.Bc4 Qd7 Unusual, but good. **9.0–0 Na5 10.Bb3 10.Bd3** would have been better. **10...Nxb3 11.Qxb3 Qe6 12.Nbd2 0–0 13.Nc4**

Kh8 14.Rfe1 White's last two moves accomplished very little and he is on the defensive now. **14...Qg8 15.Rad1?** This move is pointless since White will have to close the queen-file. **15...Be6 16.d5 Bc8 17.Ne3 f5?!** He would have been better to prepare Black's attack by playing **17...Nf7** first. **18.exf5?** Promotes Black's attack. **18.Ng5** was necessary with the idea of playing **Ne6** later hindering Black's attack. **18...gxf5 19.Qc4 f4 20.Nf1 c5** Invites White's next move. **21.Be7**



21...Bxh3! 22.Bxf8 Bf6 23.g3 Rxf8 24.N3h2 Bh4 25.Kh1 fxc3 26.Nxc3 Bxc3 27.fxc3 Rf4 28.Qd3 c4 29.Qe2 Nf5 30.Rg1 Nxc3+ 31.Rxc3 Qxc3 32.Rg1 Qd3 33.Qe1 Qxd5+ 0-1

Prentice, John Gerald – Ericson, D.L. [D13] BC-WA m White Rock, 14.07.1963

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.e3 Be7 8.Rc1 Bd7 9.Bd3 Rc8 10.0-0 Nb4 11.Bb1 h6 12.Bh4 Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne5 Nf6 15.a3 Nc6 16.f4 Rc7 17.Qf3 0-0 18.Qh3 Nxe5 19.fxe5 Nh7 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Rxc7 Rd8 22.Qg3 Ng5 23.Rxb7 Ne4 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Rc1 Qe6 26.h3 a6 (dummy move, missing from the published score) 27.Qf4 Rc8 28.Rxc8+ Bxc8 29.Rb8 Qc6 30.Qf5 1-0

UPCOMING EVENTS

BC Open

February 15-17, Richmond

[Details](#)

Ray Kaufman Lecture and Simul

February 23, Vancouver

[Details](#)

Stan Rogers Memorial

April 4, Chilliwack

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

April 10-13, Victoria

[Details](#)

Keres Memorial

May 16-18, Richmond

[Details](#)

BC Senior and Adult Championships

June 12-14, Victoria

[Details](#)