

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #118

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. Thanks to all 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.]

VICTORIA CHESS FESTIVAL

Held over the Easter long weekend in the Grand Pacific Hotel, the festival comprised three major events: the B.C. Championship, the B.C. Chess Challenge, and the Grand Pacific Open. By all reports the festival was a great success, due in large measure to the hard work and commitment of organizers Brian Raymer, Greg Churchill, Roger Patterson, Paul Leblanc, and Lynn Stringer.

Festival website, including crosstables, photos, and games:

<http://www.victoriachessclub.pbwiki.com/Victoria%20Chess%20Festival>

B.C. Championship



The three prize-winners

The 2007 edition of our annual provincial contest featured an all-master field with an average rating a shade under 2270 (although this was partly due to the boon late last year). Despite a rating spread of only 80 points the competition was considerably more open than last year's event (see Bulletin #106). The tournament developed into a two-man race between two of the reigning co-champions, Brian McLaren and Howard Wu. Wu suffered his only loss of the event in the last round to Harry Moore, which relegated him to second place in the final standings behind McLaren, while the victory enabled Moore to climb into third place. Congratulations to Brian McLaren, our new champion!

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1 McLaren, Brian	2244	*	=	1	=	=	1	=	1	5.0
2 Wu, Howard	2225	=	*	0	=	=	1	1	1	4.5
3 Moore, Harry	2300	0	1	*	1	=	0	1	=	4.0
4 Patterson, Roger	2265	=	=	0	*	=	=	1	=	3.5
5 Scoones, Dan	2281	=	=	=	=	*	0	=	1	3.5
6 Pechisker, Alfred	2293	0	0	1	=	1	*	0	=	3.0
7 Berry, Jonathan	2305	=	0	0	0	=	1	*	1	3.0
8 Jiang, Louie	2245	0	0	=	=	0	=	0	*	1.5

TD: Lynn Stringer

Cumulative scores	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 McLaren, Brian	1.0	1.5	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.5	5.0
2 Wu, Howard	1.0	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.0	4.5	4.5
3 Moore, Harry	0.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
4 Patterson, Roger	0.5	0.5	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5
5 Scoones, Dan	0.5	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	3.5
6 Pechisker, Alfred	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	3.0
7 Berry, Jonathan	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	2.5	3.0
8 Jiang, Louie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.5

The tournament was marked by an unusually high number of oversights and blunders; fatigue was certainly an issue, but these also occurred in the earlier rounds as well. I was not present so I cannot comment directly on the playing conditions, but apparently noise was a problem on the Saturday when the 160-odd participants in the grade championships were located nearby.

Below is a selection of games; all the games can be found at the festival website (see above).

Pechisker, Alfred - Moore, Harry [E80] BC ch Victoria (1.3), 06.04.2007

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 c6 6.Bg5 a6 7.a4 a5 8.Qd2 Na6 9.Nge2 Nb4 10.Rd1 0-0 11.g4 d5 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.e5 Nd7 14.Bh6 f6 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Nf4 Nb6 17.Kf2 fxe5 18.dxe5 Qc7 19.Re1 d4 20.Nb5 Qc2 21.Qxc2 Nxc2 22.Re4 Nxa4 23.Nc7 Nc5 24.Re2 d3 25.Nxd3 Nxd3+ 26.Kg3 Nce1 27.Re3 Nc2 28.Rxd3 Rb8 29.Rd2 Nb4 30.f4 h5 31.h3 Rh8 32.Rg1 Nc6 33.Bb5 hxg4 34.hxg4

g5 35.f5 Nxe5 36.Re1 Nc6 37.Bxc6 bxc6 38.Rxe7+ Kf6 39.Re3 Rb4 40.Ne8+ Kf7
41.Rd8 Rh4 42.Nd6+ Kf6 43.Ne4+ Ke7 44.Rxc8 Kd7 45.Rg8 Rxb2 46.Rg7+ Ke8
47.Nd6+ Kf8 48.Rf7+ 1-0

Jiang, Louie - Scoones, Dan [B01] BC ch Victoria (2.1), 06.04.2007

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Be3 exd4 7.Qxd4 Qxd4
8.Bxd4 Be6 9.Rc1 Nc6 10.Nf3 0-0-0 11.Bxb6 axb6 12.Be2 h6 13.0-0 g5 14.Rfd1
Bg7 15.h3 Rxd1+ 16.Nxd1 Rd8 17.b3 Nb4 18.a3 Nd3 19.Rc2 Nf4 20.Kf1 Nxe2
21.Kxe2 f5 22.Rd2 Re8 23.Kf1 f4 24.Re2 Kd7 25.Ke1 b5 26.Nd2 Ra8 27.Ne4 b6
28.Rd2+ Ke7 29.cxb5 Rxa3 30.Rc2 Kd7 31.Rd2+ Kc8 32.b4 Rb3 33.Re2 Bc4
34.Nd2 Bxe2 35.Nxb3 Bxb5 36.g3 fxg3 37.fxg3 Bf8 38.Nd4 Bxb4+ 39.Kf2 Bc5
40.Ke3 Kd7 41.Nc3 Bxd4+ 42.Kxd4 Bf1 43.h4 gxh4 44.gxh4 Ke6 45.Ne4 Bg2
46.Ng3 Bb7 47.Nh5 c5+ 48.Kc4 Ba6+ 49.Kc3 b5 50.Ng7+ Ke5 51.Ne8 Bc8
52.Nc7 Bd7 53.Na6 Kd6 54.Kd3 Be8 0-1

Berry, Jonathan - Pechisker, Alfred [A26] BC ch Victoria (2.3), 06.04.2007

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 e5 8.d3 Ne8
9.Rb1 f5 10.Nd5 Be6 11.b4 Nd4 12.Nxd4 exd4 13.Nf4 Bc8 14.exf5 Rxf5 15.Bd5+
Kh8 16.Ne6 Bxe6 17.Bxe6 Re5 18.Bh3 Bf6 19.Bf4 Re7 20.Qf3 Rb8 21.Rfe1 Ng7
22.Kf1 Qf8 23.Rxe7 Bxe7 24.Bg2 Qf6 25.Re1 g5 26.Bd2 Qxf3 27.Bxf3 Bf6 28.b5
Kg8 29.a4 Kf8 30.a5 b6 31.Bc6 h6 32.Kg2 Kf7 33.g4 Be5 34.h4 Kf6 35.hxg5+
hxg5 36.Rh1 Ne6 37.Rh6+ Ke7 38.Rh7+ Kf6 39.Bd5 Nc5 40.Rf7+ Kg6 41.Rxc7
Nb3 42.axb6 axb6 43.Bb4 Nc5 44.Re7 Bf4 45.Bxc5 dxc5 46.Kf3 Rf8 47.Be4+ Kf6
48.Rh7 Rb8 49.Bf5 Bd2 50.Ke4 Re8+ 51.Kd5 Rd8+ 52.Kc6 Ba5 53.Bd7 Rg8
54.Kd6 Bd2 55.Bf5 Rb8 56.Rh6+ Kg7 57.Rg6+ Kf7 58.Kc6 Bf4 59.Rh6 Bd2
60.Rd6 Ba5 61.Kc7 Rh8 62.Be4 Ke7 63.Rg6 Rf8 64.f3 Rf7 65.Bd5 Rh7 66.Kc6
Rh3 67.Rxg5 Kf6 68.Rf5+ Kg6 69.Be4 Kg7 70.f4 Re3 71.g5 Re1 72.Rd5 Rf1
73.f5 Rf4 74.f6+ Kf7 75.Rd7+ Kf8 76.Bg6 1-0

Wu, Howard - Jiang, Louie [B78] BC ch Victoria (3.1), 07.04.2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6
9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rb8 11.h4 b5 12.Bb3 Ne5 13.h5 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.Nd5
Nxd5 16.exd5 Qb6 17.c3 Qa5 18.Kb1 Rb7 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.Qe1 Rfb8 21.Bc1
Ba4 22.Nc6 Qxc3 23.Qxc3 Bxc3 24.Nxb8 Bxd1 25.Nc6 Ba4 26.Rh4 Bf6 27.Rxc4
Bb5 28.Rg4 Rc7 29.Be3 a6 30.a4 Bxc6 31.Rc4 Bxb2 32.Rxc6 Rb7 33.Kc2 a5
34.Bb6 Be5 35.Kd3 Kf7 36.Kc4 e6 37.Rc7+ Rxc7+ 38.Bxc7 exd5+ 39.Kxd5 Bc3
40.Kxd6 g5 41.Kc6 Ke7 42.Kb5 Kd7 43.Bxa5 Bf6 44.Kc5 h5 45.Kd5 g4 46.fxg4
hxg4 47.Be1 Be7 48.Ke4 Bd6 49.Kf5 g3 50.Kg4 Kc6 51.Bxg3 Bb4 52.Bh4 Bc3
53.Kf5 Kb6 54.Bd8+ Kc5 55.g4 Bd2 56.Bg5 Bc3 57.Be7+ Kb6 58.Bd8+ Kc5
59.g5 Kc4 60.g6 Bg7 61.a5 Kb5 62.Ke6 Ka6 63.Kf7 Bh6 64.Bg5 Bxg5 65.g7 Bd2
66.g8Q Bxa5 67.Ke6 Kb5 68.Kd5 Kb4 69.Qc8 Kb3 70.Qb7+ Kc2 71.Kc4 Kd1
72.Kd3 Ke1 73.Qe4+ Kf1 74.Qf5+ 1-0

Patterson, Roger - Berry, Jonathan [B06] BC ch Victoria (3.3), 07.04.2007

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 a6 4.f4 b5 5.a4 b4 6.Nb1 Nf6 7.Nd2 e5 8.Ngf3 exf4 9.Bd3 Bg7 10.e5 Nh5 11.exd6 cxd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Ne4 Nc6 14.c3 Rb8 15.Bd2 h6 16.Ne1 bxc3 17.bxc3 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Bxd4+ 19.Nf2 Ng3 20.Rb1 Rxb1 21.Bxb1 Nxf1 22.Kxf1 Qh4 23.Qf3 Qxf2+ 24.Qxf2 Bxf2 25.Kxf2 g5 26.Nf3 Bb7 27.Nd4 Rb8 28.Bd3 Bxg2 29.Kxg2 Rb2 30.Bc2 Kf8 31.Kf3 f5 32.h4 Ra2 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Bb4 Ra1 35.Bxd6+ Kf7 36.Bb4 Rf1+ 37.Kg2 Ra1 38.Bc3 Ra3 39.Bb3+ Kg6 40.Bb2 1-0

Scoones, Dan - Moore, Harry [A97] BC ch Victoria (3.4), 07.04.2007

1.Nf3 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.d4 Qe8 8.Re1 Qh5 9.e4 fxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Rxe4 Nc6 12.Qb3 e5 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.c5+ Kh8 15.Qc3 Bf6 16.Be3 Bf5 17.Ra4 e4 18.Nd4 Ne5 19.Nxf5 Ng4 20.Qc1 Qxh2+ 21.Kf1 Bxb2 22.Qxb2 Rxf5 23.Rxe4 Qxg3 24.Rxg4 Qxg4 25.Qxb7 Raf8 26.Qe4 Qxe4 27.Bxe4 Re5 28.c6 Rxe4 29.Bxa7 Rc4 30.Be3 Rxc6 31.a4 Ra6 32.a5 Kg8 33.Rc1 Rxa5 34.Rxc7 h6 35.Kg2 Rf7 36.Rc6 Raf5 37.Rc4 Kh7 38.Ra4 Kg6 39.Rg4+ Kh5 40.Ra4 g5 41.Re4 Kg6 42.Re8 h5 43.Bd4 h4 44.Be3 Kh5 45.Re4 Rf3 46.Re5 R7f5 47.Re4 g4 48.Re6 Rf6 49.Re5+ R3f5 50.Re8 h3+ 51.Kg1 Kh4 52.Rh8+ Rh5 53.Rg8 Re6 54.Bf4 Rh7 55.Bg5+ Kh5 56.Bf4 Rf7 57.Rh8+ Kg6 58.Rg8+ Kf5 59.Bg3 Re1+ 60.Kh2 Re2 61.Ra8 Kg6 62.Rg8+ Kf5 63.Ra8 Rfe7 64.Rf8+ Ke6 65.Rf4 Rg7 66.Bh4 Ke5 67.Bg3 Kd5 68.Rf8 Ke4 69.Re8+ Kd3 70.Rd8+ Kc2 71.Rd4 Rd2 72.Rf4 Kd1 73.Kg1 Rd3 74.Kh2 Ke2 75.Re4+ Kf1 76.f3 Rd2+ 77.Kh1 Rd1 78.fxg4 1/2-1/2

Pechisker, Alfred - Jiang, Louie [D35] BC ch Victoria (5.1), 08.04.2007

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 Be7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.Bf4 Nf8 11.0-0 Ne6 12.Bg3 g6 13.Rab1 a5 14.a3 Ng7 15.b4 Bf5 16.Ne5 Nfh5 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.bxa5 f6 19.Nd3 Nhxg3 20.hxg3 Rxa5 21.Rxb7 Rxa3 22.Nf4 Nd6 23.Rb3 Nc4 24.Rfb1 Ra7 25.Qd3 f5 26.Rb7 Qa8 27.Rxa7 Qxa7 28.g4 fxg4 29.Nxg6 Bd6 30.Nh4 g3 31.Nf5 gxf2+ 32.Kxf2 Qf7 33.Kg1 Qg6 34.e4 Kh8 35.Rf1 Bb4 36.e5 Rg8 37.Rf2 Rf8 38.Ne2 Bd2 39.Qh3 c5 40.dxc5 Nxe5 41.Ned4 Bb4 42.Rc2 Nc6 43.Nxc6 Qxc6 44.Qg4 Bxc5+ 45.Kh1 Qf6 46.Rxc5 Qxf5 47.Qd4+ Qf6 1/2-1/2

McLaren, Brian - Moore, Harry [B26] BC ch Victoria (6.2), 08.04.2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 Nd4 7.h3 Rb8 8.Qc1 Bd7 9.Nce2 Qc8 10.c3 Nxe2 11.Nxe2 Nf6 12.Bh6 0-0 13.g4 Bc6 14.0-0 c4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.g5 Nh5 17.d4 Qe6 18.d5 Bxd5 19.Nd4 Qe5 20.exd5 Nf4 21.Qe3 Qxg5 22.Qg3 Qf6 23.Rae1 Rbc8 24.Be4 Kh8 25.Ne2 Nh5 26.Qe3 Rc5 27.Rd1 Kg8 28.Bf3 Ng7 29.Ng3 Qh4 30.Bg2 f5 31.f4 g5 32.Rd4 g4 33.hxg4 Qxg4 34.Kf2 Rf7

35.Bf3 Qg6 36.Rg1 Kh8 37.Nh5 Qh6 38.Nxg7 Qh4+ 39.Kf1 Rxc7 40.Rxc7 Kxc7
41.Rd2 Qf6 42.Rg2+ Kf8 43.Kg1 Qh6 44.Qe6 1-0

B.C. Chess Challenge

Taking place at the same time was the Chess Challenge, another set of provincial championships for grade school children; the winners are given below. They will now form the basis of the B.C. team which will compete against the other provinces at the National Chess Challenge in Quebec City on the Victoria Day Weekend.

Kindergarten : Maggie Rose MacInnis

Grade 1: Jonah Lee

Grade 2: Janak Awatramani

Grade 3: Harrison Lee

Grade 4: Alex Sabaratnam

Grade 5: Tanraj Sohal

Grade 6: Jack Cheng

Grade 7: Joshua Renaud

Grade 8: Thomas Chow

Grade 9: Henry Ji

Grade 10: Evan Raymer

Grade 11: Sam Churchill

Grade 12: George Li

Grand Pacific Open

The last component of the festival was an open tournament. This attracted forty-one players including several from other countries, and was the best turn-out for an open Victoria event since the late 1980s.

The prize winners:

Open

1st H.G. Pitre 4.5/5

2nd - 3rd Mike MacGregor, Brian Esler, Mike Murray 4/5

U2000

1st - 3rd Evan Raymer, Elliot Raymer, Tanraj Sohal, Arie Milner 3.5/5

U1600

1st - 3rd Foster Tom, Moise Herringer, Kristijan Gorgevik 3/5

U1200

1st - 3rd Alejandro Torrez-Lopez, Ivo Wright, Elliot Lupini 2/5

SEIRAWAN CHESS by Bruce Harper

On Saturday, March 31, 2007, a 12-board Seirawan chess simultaneous exhibition was held at the Vancouver Chess Centre. Don't be misled. While the simultaneous was in fact given by world renowned GM Yasser Seirawan, former World Junior Champion, frequent top-ten ranked player, etc., etc., the game in question was not (classical) chess, but "Seirawan chess," the name chosen (for legal reasons) for an increasingly popular version of chess devised by Bruce Harper and Yasser Seirawan a little over a year ago as they lamented the current state of chess. With the goal of rendering existing opening theory obsolete, overthrowing the cruel reign of Fritz over the human imagination, drastically reducing the frequency of draws and making chess fun again, "Seirawan chess" (let's call it "s-chess") (re)introduces the often-considered knight-bishop (in s-chess the "Hawk") and the knight-rook (in s-chess the "Elephant"). After his dreary loss to Alekhine in their World Championship match in 1927, Capablanca was an enthusiastic proponent of a version of chess which incorporated these two pieces, but he suggested playing on an 8 x 10 board. The idea never caught on.

S-chess uses a normal set on a normal 8 x 8 board. The extra pieces may be placed on the board when a square is vacated by one of the original pieces. Placement is part of the move of the developing piece, and only one piece may be placed at a time (so castling does not permit a player to put both the Hawk and the Elephant on the board, although it allows a choice of two squares for either piece). The advantages to this approach are obvious: new sets and boards aren't needed, just the new pieces; and because a standard 8 x 8 board is used, the relative value of the other pieces remains unchanged, as does almost all endgame theory ("almost all", because there is always the possibility of promotion to a Hawk or Elephant). In short, while the new pieces open up all sorts of new possibilities in the opening, middle game and ending, it is still chess.

Yasser's score in the simultaneous was 8 wins, 2 draws, and 2 losses. He found it exhausting, because the games were adventures right from the start and he, like everyone else, had no body of opening or middle game theory to draw upon to save his energy. A good time was had by all. No entry fee was paid by the players, no fee was charged by GM Seirawan, and no rent was required by the Vancouver Chess Centre. The generosity and support of the Chess Centre's management, especially Toni Deline, was notable, as was the kindness and consideration of the players, who made substantial donations to the Chess Centre. All in all, the event exemplified the new spirit that s-chess hopes to bring to chess, both on and off the board.

Let's look at some of the games. To play these through, you need something to represent the new pieces – but not for long. Proper pieces are being manufactured and should be available to the public this summer.

Seirawan, Yasser – Enns, Edward

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 e6?! This move is no better in s-chess than in classical chess. 4.Nf3 Ne7 5.Bh6/Hc1! White exchanges Black's g7-bishop by bringing his hawk into play on c1, rather than spending time on Be3, Qd2 and Bh6. **5...0-0/Hh8!?** An interesting defensive idea, to cover the dark squares around Black's king. **6.h4! d5 7.e5 Nf5 8.Bxg7 Hxg7 9.h5 gxh5?! 10.Bd3! Nc6/Eb8 11.Bxf5 exf5 12.Hf4!** White is in no hurry to recapture on h5. Black's d5-pawn is now attacked, but Black either overlooks this or unsoundly sacrifices it. **12...b6? 13.Nxd5 Ed7 14.Nf6+** Black can now give up his queen, elephant or hawk. No one yet really knows their relative values, but everyone agrees they're all worth more than a knight... **14...Qxf6 15.exf6 Re8+ 16.Kf1 Ba6+ 17.Kg1 Exf6 18.Rxh5/Eh1** White finally brings his elephant onto the board. **18...Be2 19.Hxe2 Rxe2 20.Rg5** A pin is still a pin. **20...Rae8 21.Eg3 Ee4 22.Rxg7+ Kh8 23.Exe4 R8xe4 24.Rxf7 Nxd4 25.Nxd4 1:0** The smoke has cleared and Black found himself in a classical chess game down massive amounts of material.

Seirawan, Yasser – Polich, Duane/Molden, Len

1.d4 e5!? In s-chess material is less important and gambits such as this might well be playable. Who knows? **2.dxe5 Nc6/Hb8 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.Bf4 Qe7/Ed8** Black is trying one possible strategy in s-chess – rapid development. But, as we'll see, development still has a qualitative aspect, and Black's pieces (including the new ones) turn out not to work all that well. **6.exd6 cxd6 7.Nd5 Qe4 8.Qd3/Ed1 Bf5 9.Ee3!** Pinning Black's e4-queen, but there is another threat, which Black misses. **9...Ee6? 10.Exf5! Nb4 11.Qxe4 Exe4 12.Nxb4 Exb4 13.0-0-0/He1! Exa2+ 14.Kb1** White's king isn't afraid of elephants – at least, not when they're on their own. **14...Ea4 15.e4! a6 16.Hc3 Exc3+ 17.bxc3 g6 18.Ee3 Bh6 19.Bxh6 Nxh6 20.Bc4 Hc7 21.Bb3 0-0-0 22.Rd4 b5 23.g4 Rhf8 24.Rhd1 Ng8 25.Ng5 Rd7 26.Nxh7 Re8 27.Ng5 f6 28.Nf7 Kb8 29.Nxd6 Red8 30.Nxb5!** Who needs the new pieces? White's knight, by moving six times in a row, single-handedly demolishes Black's position. **30...Hxb5 31.Rxd7 Rxd7 32.Rxd7 Hxd7 33.Bxg8 He5 34.h3 Hh2 35.Bc4 Hg1 36.e5 Hxf2 37.Ed3! Hb6 38.Eb4 1:0** After the exchange of White's elephant for Black's hawk, White will be a piece ahead.

Seirawan, Yasser – Tang, Tiffany/Harper, Laura

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3/Hb1 Nf6 4.Bf4 Be7 5.e3 b6 6.Nf3 Bb7/Ec8 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5 Qxd5/Hd8 9.Hc3 Qh5?! Black's queen soon gets into trouble. GM Duncan Suttles was kibitzing in this game (perfectly acceptable in s-chess simuls), but he didn't start kibitzing soon enough... 10.Be2 Qg6 11.0-0/Eh1 0-0 12.Eg3 Not so much because White is convinced that a queen is more valuable than an elephant, but to protect White's king. **12...Qxg3 13.Bxg3 c5 14.Rc1 Bf6 15.Be5!** White now begins a series of fine moves that lead to a winning

position. **15...Bxe5 16.dxe5 a6?! Logical, but Black doesn't really have time for this. 17.Nd2! b5 18.Ne4 Hc6 19.Bf3 b4 20.Nf6+! gxf6 21.Bxc6 Bxc3 22.exf6!** Threatening 23.Qg4+ and 24.Qg7 mate. **22...Kh8 23.Bxb7** The point of White's combination. Everything hangs. **23...cxb2 24.Rb1 Eb6 25.Bxa8 Exa8 26.Rxb2 Ec7 27.Qd6! Ed7 28.Qg3 Rg8 29.Rxb8! Exb8 30.Qxb8 Rxb8 31.Rc4** White is a pawn ahead in a winning rook ending. Even so, the rest of the game is worth playing out. Somehow the "chess" positions which arise out of s-chess games often seem to be more interesting and imbalanced than classical chess positions. **31...c4 32.g4 Rc8 33.f4 h6 34.e4 Kh7 35.Kf2 Rc5 36.e5 Ra5 37.Rxc4 Rxa2+ 38.Kg3 Ra3+ 39.Kh4 Rf3 40.g5 Kg6 41.Kg4 Rf2 42.h4 h5+ 43.Kg3 Rb2 44.Rc8 Rb3 45.Kf2 Rb4 46.Rg8+ Kf5 47.g6 Rxf4+ 48.Ke3 1:0**

Seirawan, Yasser – Moura, Eduardo

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5/Hc1 Be7 4.c4 d5 5.Nc3 0-0/Ee8 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Na6/Hb8 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Qe7 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Be2 Nxc5 12.0-0/Ee1 Both players are playing solidly. **12...Ef6 13.b3 Bg4 14.Hb2 Eh6 15.Qxd5 Hc6 16.Qg5 Qxg5 17.Nxg5 Bxe2 18.Exe2 Ne4 18.Nxe4 Hxe4 20.Eg3** Is this best? The material balance ends up being a hawk and a pawn for an elephant, and the result is a draw – the first ever in s-chess! **20...Hxg3 21.hxg3 Rfd8 22.Rfd1 Ea6 23.a3 Ec5 24.Hc4 a6 25.Rac1 Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 h6 27.Rd5 Ec7 28.Rd1 b5 29.He5 Ec5 30.Hd4 Ec7 31.He5 Ec5 32.Hd4 Draw** A legitimate result.

Seirawan, Yasser – Pechisker, Alfred

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3/Hb1 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Bg5/Ec1 Nc6/Hb8 6.Nf3 e6 7.e3 In s-chess the Slav Defence isn't quite as dull as in classical chess, thank heavens. **7...h6!?** **8.Bh4 g5!?** Black has an idea, although not necessarily a good one. **9.Bg3 Bd6/Ef8 10.Bb5 Eg8 11.Ne5 h5!?** And here's the idea. **12.h3 Bd7 13.Hd3! h4 14.Bh2 g4 15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.hxg4 h3 17.Rg1 hxg2 18.Rxg2 Rxh2!?** **19.Rxh2 Bxe5 20.dxe5** White has come out on top. **20...Qb6 21.Na4! Qa5+ 22.b4 Qc7 23.f4 Ne4 24.Nc5 Nxc5 25.bxc5 Qa5+ 26.Kf2 Ha6 27.Eb3 Hxd3+ 28.Qxd3?** After 28.Exd3, White's position is winning. **28...Exg4+ 0:1** The elephant at its best. White's K/f2 and R/h2 are forked, and White's king can't cross the g-file to defend the rook.

Seirawan, Yasser – Harper, Jamie/Harper, Bruce

There was a lot of kibitzing in this game, but it was the younger Harper who saw the key moves. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3/Hb1 d5** The Nimzoindian, if that's what it is after 3...Bb4, can be met by 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.Hxc3. Of course, this may well be perfectly playable for Black, who can also place a hawk or an elephant at f8 on his third move. **4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 h6 7.Bh4 0-0/Ee8 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 c6 9.0-0/Ee1 Ne4!?** Lasker's freeing maneuver. **11.Bxe7 Qxe7/Hd8 12.Bxe4 dxe4 13.Nd2 f5 14.f3 exf3 15.Qxf3 Nf6 16.Nc4 Hf7 17.Ne5 Hh5!** The

first key move. Black's h5-hawk dominates White's f3-queen. **18.Qf2 Ng4!**
19.Nxg4 Hxg4 20.Hc2 White has little choice, as his e3-pawn was also
 attacked. **20...Hxf2 21.Rxf2 Be6** Black is doing well. **22.Ef3 Ef6 23.Ee5 Rae8**
24.Raf1 Ed7 25.Eg6 Qf7 26.Ef4 g5! 27.Ee2 Bc4 28.Rxf5!? Bxe2 29.Rxf7 Rxf7
30.Rxf7 Kxf7 Black could have played 30...Exf7 31.Nxe2 Rf8, but was afraid of a
 classical chess ending after 32.Hb3, since Black would only be ahead the
 exchange for a pawn. So the odd material balance of a knight and hawk vs. a
 rook and elephant arises, which must favour Black. But it was very difficult to
 find a way to activate Black's heavy pieces. **31.Nxe2 Ef6** To prevent
 32.Hf5. **32.Nf3 Ke7!? 33.Ne4 Ed5 34.Nc3 Eb6 35.Hf5+?** Falling for Black's trap,
 if it can be dignified by even that term. After 35.b3 or 35.Na4, Black would have
 a long, hard task ahead. **35...Kf6 36.g4 Exb2 37.Ne4+ Rxe4! 38.Hxe4+ Ke6**
39.Hc5+ Kf7! The key move, missed by Bruce but seen by Jamie Harper. The
 intended 39...Kd5? 40.e4+ Kc4 loses to 41.Ha3! Kc3 42.Hxb2 Kxb2 42.e5, and
 White's e5-pawn queens (or elephants or hawks...). Instead White is now under
 attack, as Black threatens 40...Ee2+! (not 40...Exa2? 41.Hb3+) 41.Kf1 (41.Kh1?
 Ee1 mate) 41...Exh2 or 41...Exe3+. White's hawk is strong, but not strong
 enough to fend of a rampaging elephant, so White resigned. **0:1**

For further information and details, see the following:

<http://www.chessmastery.com/seirawan-chess.html>

<http://www.chessmastery.com/seirawan-simul.html>

1967 B.C. CHAMPIONSHIP

Forty years ago the B.C. Championship was held as a two-section six-round Swiss at the North Vancouver Recreation Centre on the Easter weekend. A total of fifty-eight players took part, twenty-four in the "A" Section and thirty-four in the "B." In the mid-1960s the championship was going through a transitional phase. On his arrival in B.C. in 1957 Elod Macskasy outclassed all the local opposition, as indicated by his winning of the championship five years in a row, 1958-62. But he was not getting any younger - he celebrated his forty-eighth birthday shortly after the 1967 event. At the same time chess was not standing still: new players were emerging. The combination of these two factors left the championship in a state of flux for a few years. B.C.'s strongest rising star, Duncan Suttles, won the championship in 1963 and 1966, but by 1967 had graduated to bigger and better things; he had already played on the olympic team twice, and later that year would represent Canada at the Sousse Interzonal. The next generation of championship competitors (Bob Zuk, Peter Biyiasas, Bruce Harper, Jonathan Berry, Alan Hill) were just starting out in organized chess, which left the generation of players after Macskasy: Brian Potter, Ray Kerr, Colin Aykroyd, Gustav Ackermann, Joe Kaltenecker, and Frank Veszely (Gerry Neufahrt was living elsewhere at this point). Macskasy had poor results in a few championships, which allowed some of the lesser lights to win the provincial crown: Siegfried Wuntschek in 1964 and Brian Potter in 1965. The

1967 tournament may have had a similar ending, as Macskasy fell behind after losing to Ackermann in round four, but he rallied to win his last-round game and tie for first with Colin Aykroyd. Although no one knew it at the time, this marked Macskasy's last championship win; even as late as 1988 he finished second, a half-point off the pace, but he was never able to become champion again.

#	Name	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Colin Aykroyd	W11	W3	W16	W9	W4	L2	5.0
2	Elod Macskasy	W14	W10	W7	L4	W6	W1	5.0
3	Alan Hill	D7	L1	W23	W20	W9	W4	4.5
4	Gustav Ackermann	W6	W17	W8	W2	L1	L3	4.0
5	Ray Kerr	D23	W20	D10	L6	W14	W8	4.0
6	Peter Biyiasas	L4	W14	W18	W5	L2	D10	3.5
7	Wayne Crookes	D3	W11	L2	W16	L8	W18	3.5
8	Ernest Krzyzowski	W15	W18	L4	D13	W7	L5	3.5
9	Mike Potoma	W21	D16	W12	L1	L3	W15	3.5
10	David Hladek	W19	L2	D5	D17	W13	D6	3.5
11	Mike Kindret	L1	L7	W15	W23	W18	D13	3.5
12	W. Zuk	L20	W23	L9	D15	W19	W17	3.5
13	Alan Lane	L16	W19	W17	D8	L10	D11	3.0
14	R. Cummings	L2	L6	X24	W22	L5	W21	3.0
15	Franz Brunnhofer	L8	W24	L11	D12	W16	L9	2.5
16	R. Kaye	W13	D9	L1	L7	L15	X22	2.5
17	A. Knott	W22	L4	L13	D10	X20	L12	2.5
18	Otto Rasmussen	W24	L8	L6	W19	L11	L7	2.0
19	Dan Scoones	L10	L13	W21	L18	L12	W23	2.0
20	Harold Melchior	W12	L5	W22	L3	F17	F24	2.0
21	T. Payne	L9	L22	L19	X24	W23	L14	2.0
22	T. Middleton	L17	W21	L20	L14	X24	F16	2.0
23	Bryon Arden	D5	L12	L3	L11	L21	L19	0.5
24	William Chornobay	L18	L15	F14	F21	F22	F20	0.0

In looking at old crosstables it is always interesting to see which players (if any) are still active. Ernie Krzyzowski, Mike Kindret, and Dan Scoones certainly fall into this category, along with Jonathan Berry and Bruce Harper from the "B" Section (more on that next time). Until a few years ago David Hladek was also participating in tournaments with no more than one round a day.

Somewhat surprisingly BCBASE only contains one game from the "A" Section of the 1967 Championship, as provided by David Hladek:

Hladek, David - Lane, Alan [D02] BC ch A North Vancouver (5), 26.03.1967

1.d4 d5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.Nbd2 c5
9.dxc5 bxc5 10.Rc1 Qa5 11.a3 Nfd7 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.c4 Qxa3 14.cxd5 Bxd5
15.Nc4 Bxc4 16.bxc4 a5 17.Qc2 a4 18.Nd4 Ra6 19.Ra1 Qb4 20.Rfb1 Qa5
21.Nb5 Nb6 22.Bb7 Rd8 23.Bxa6 Nxa6 24.Qc3+ Qxc3 25.Nxc3 Nxc4 26.Nxa4
Rc8 27.Rb5 Nd6 28.Ra5 Rc6 29.Nc3 Nb4 30.Ra7 e6 31.Rd7 Na6 32.e4 Kf6
33.f4 e5 34.Nd5+ Kg7 35.fxe5 Nxe4 36.Rf1 Ng5 37.h4 Ne6 38.Rfxf7+ Kg8
39.Nf6+ 1-0

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior Events

Apr 20 Victoria School Team Championship
Apr 21 Secondary School Team Championship, Vancouver
Apr 22 Junior Open, New Westminster
May 5-6 BCYCC

UBC Tuesday Night Swiss

Now taking place at the Vancouver Chess Centre (<http://www.vanchess.com/>) on Thursday evenings.

Apple Blossom Open

Date: April 28-29
Location: Best Western Vernon Lodge
Type: 5-round Swiss

Paul Keres Memorial

Date: May 18-21
Location: Hungarian Cultural Centre, 728 Kingsway, Vancouver
Type: 7 or 6 round Swiss