

McLaren and Gansvind Co-Champions at the BC Senior

Thirty players convened at the Comfort Inn in Victoria on the weekend of 16-18 June for the 5th annual BC Senior Championship. This was the first time that the event has been held in Victoria and about half the players were from Vancouver Island.

The usual genteel atmosphere prevailed, however fighting chess was the order of the day with only 8 draws in the entire tournament.

Brian McLaren and Valeria Gansvind each finished with 4.5 out of 5.0 and drew their individual encounter in Round 4. That game featured an unusual pawn structure that entombed a rook and knight that could only be freed by giving up the knight. This led to an ending with an extra piece for McLaren but two extra pawns for Gansvind that allowed her to hold the draw.

If there had been a brilliancy prize it would have gone to Richard Lapenna for his game against Bill Tate that featured two piece sacrifices on route to a successful kingside attack.

Paul Leblanc captured the U1800 prize with a last round victory against Joe Soliven in another exciting game.

Other prize winners were Mau-Seng Lee and Paul MacDonell (tied for U1600), Ivan Nicolici and Ralph Fink (tied for U1400), and Al Hui (U1200).

The tournament was organized by Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess and directed by Stephen Wright, IA. Marc Moisan, a local Victoria player acted as assistant TD and floater.



"1000 years of chess experience"



Gansvind vs McLaren "Co-champions battle it out in the penultimate round"