

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #205

This issue will be the last of 2010; that being the case, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best of the holiday season - see you in 2011!

Your editor welcomes 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

HERE AND THERE

December Active (December 19)

In the absence of the usual suspects organizer Luc Poitras won the December Active with a perfect 4.0/4. Tied for second a point back were Joe Roback, Joe Soliven, Jeremy Hiu, and Alexey Lushchenko (returning to tournament chess after a number of years). Eighteen players participated. [Crosstable](#)

Portland Winter Open (December 11-12)

The Winter version of this quarterly Portland event was won outright by current Canadian U16 Girls' Champion Alexandra Botez, whose 4.0/5 score included a last-round victory over the top seed, NM Steven Breckenridge. Breckenridge tied for second with Bill Heywood and Brian Esler. [Crosstable](#)

Canadian Chess Player of the Year

World Under 10 Champion Jason Cao of Victoria has been named the 2010 [Canadian Chess Player of the Year](#), in a vote "made by Canadian Chess journalists, together with one ballot resulting from a fan poll (starting in 2007)."

Nathan Divinsky

The latest (December 2010) issue of *Chess Life* contains a profile of Nathan Divinsky, the "chess godfather of the North," by IM Anthony Saidy. It should be noted that Dr. Divinsky celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday at the end of October - belated congratulations!

MORE FROM TENKES CUP B OPEN (Budapest, November 26 - December 4)

Yip, Michael - Domos, Geza [D73] Harkany Open (6), 30.11.2010

[Yip]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 c6! The most solid way of countering the g3 method should White choose to play d4. **4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 d5 7.cxd5** The b3 line(s) are what Avrukh recommends.;

7.Qb3 is also possible. **7...cxd5 8.Ne5** White has a choice of harmless lines. **8...Nc6** This is very cooperative. **9.Nxc6 bxc6** Now the position offers White some chances with play on the c-file. **10.Nc3 Ba6 11.b3?!** Lame and hardly ever played. This partially prophylactic and partially developing move is not really necessary if the goal was to avoid b-file pressure. [11.Bf4 Hübner,R: '...Qd2' Taking control over e5 is stronger. 11...Qb6 'N' Hübner,R. 12.Na4 (12.Qd2 Ne4 13.Nxe4 dxe4=) 12...Qb5 13.Re1 Nd7 14.e4 (14.Rc1 Rfc8 15.e4 (15.b3 Qa5 16.Bd2 Qd8=) 15...e6 16.Bd6 (16.Bf1 Qb7=) 16...Qa5= x a2) 14...e6 15.Bd6 Rfc8 (15...Rfd8 16.e5 Bf8 17.Bxf8 Rxf8 18.Rc1+/=) 16.Re3 '!' Hübner,R. (16.e5 Bf8 17.Bxf8 Kxf8 18.Bf1 (18.Rc1 Qa5=) 18...Qb7 19.Bxa6 Qxa6 20.Rc1 Rab8=) 16...Qa5 (16...dxe4 Opening the position for white does not help. 17.Bxe4 Qg5 (17...Nf6? 18.Bd3 Qa5 19.b4+-) 18.Rc1+/=) 17.Ra3 Qd8 18.Nc5 Bb5 19.e5 Now White has control over the position and the Grünfeld bishop has been neutralized. 19...Nxc5 (19...Nb6 20.b3 Bf8 21.Bxf8 Kxf8 22.Qd2 Kg7 23.Ra5 intending a4+-) 20.Bxc5 a5 21.Rc1 a4 22.Bf1! (The Bb5 is the piece that is holding black's queenside together while Bg2 is not so important as a defender as Black is in no position to generate any threats to White's kingside.) 22...Bxf1 23.Kxf1 Qa5 24.Kg2 Qb5 25.Rc2 Now the queenside is secure against any attack on the b-file. 25...h5 '?' Hübner,R. (25...Bf8 26.Rac3+/=) 26.Rac3 '?' Hübner,R. (26.g4 h4 (forced - 26...hgx4 27.Qxg4 intending Rh3, Qh4+-) 27.Rh3±) 26...Bf8 27.Bxf8 Kxf8 28.g4 hxg4 29.Qxg4 Ke8 30.Qf4 Ra7 31.Rh3 Re7 Hübner,R: 'intending Kd7' 32.Qd2 Rb7 (32...Kd7 33.Rc5 Qb7 34.Ra5 Ra8 35.Rxa8 Qxa8 36.Qb4+-) 33.Qf4 Re7 34.b3 Kd7 35.Rc5 Qb4 (35...Qe2 36.Ra5 axb3 37.Rxb3 Qe4+ 38.Qxe4 dxe4 39.Kg3±) 36.a3 Qxa3 37.Ra5 Qb2 '?' Hübner,R. (37...Qb4 38.Rxa4 Qb7 unclear) 38.Rxa4 Qc2 39.Qf6 Qe4+ 40.Kg3 Rc7 (40...Qd3+ 41.f3 Rc7 42.Rh8+-) 41.Rh8 Rb7 (41...c5 42.dxc5 Qd3+ 43.Kg2+-) 42.Raa8 (42.Rb8! Qd3+ (42...Rxb8 43.Ra7+ Kc8 44.Qh8+-) 43.f3 Qb5 44.Qh8 (44.Ra7? Rxa7 unclear) 44...Rxb8 45.Ra7+ Rb7 (45...Qb7 46.Qxb8+-) 46.Ra8+-) 42...c5 (42...Rxb3+ 43.f3 Qe1+ 44.Kh3 Qf1+ 45.Kh4 Qf2+ 46.Kg5 Qd2+ (46...Qg2+ 47.Kh6 Qxh2+ 48.Kg7+-) 47.Qf4+-) 43.Rac8 Rxb3+ 44.f3 Qe1+ 45.Kh3 Qf1+ (45...Qa5 46.dxc5 Rc3 47.Qf4 Rc4 (47...Rxc5 48.Qa4+-) 48.Qxc4 dxc4 49.c6#) 46.Kh4 Qf2+ 47.Kg5 Qd2+ (47...Qg2+ 48.Kh6 Qd2+ 49.Kg7 Qa5 50.dxc5 Rc3 51.Rhd8+ Qxd8 52.Rxd8+ Kxd8 53.Kf8+-) 48.Qf4 1-0 Hübner,R - Uhlmann,W/Germany 1997/GER-chT 48...Qa5 (48...f6+ 49.exf6 Qxf4+ (49...Qg2+ 50.Qg4+-) 50.Kxf4 e5+ 51.dxe5 Rb4+ 52.Kg3 Rxe5 (52...Rf7 53.Rhe8 Rb6 54.e6+-) 53.f7+-) 49.dxc5 Rc3 50.Qa4+-] **11...Re8** 11...e5 12.dxe5 Ng4 13.Bf4 Re8 14.Rc1 Nxe5= **12.Re1 e5** Black should have no problems after this. 12...Qd6 13.Bf4 Qb4 14.Rc1 Nd7 15.Na4 Rac8= **13.dxe5 Rxe5 14.Bf4 Re8=** 14...Re6 15.Rc1 Qa5 16.Bd2 Qa3= **15.Rc1=** White has reached a playable equal position. **15...Nh5 16.Bd2 f5?!** Asking too much of Black's position. **17.Na4+/=** Now White aims for a low risk static game with the goal of playing against the hanging pawn duo and dark squares. **17...Bb7 18.Nc5 Qe7**



19.Nxb7? Missing a nice tactical shot that would crown a nice positional plan. 19.Bg5! practically decides the game. 19...Qxg5 (19...Qf7 20.Nxb7 Qxb7 21.Rxc6+-) 20.Nxb7 Qe7 21.Na5± Black is on the verge of collapse. **19...Qxb7= 20.Qc2 Rac8 21.Qd3 Nf6 22.Bc3 Kh8?!+/= 22...Ne4= 23.e3 Re6 23...Ne4 24.Bxg7+ Kxg7 25.Qd4+ Kg8 26.b4 Qb6 27.a3+/=** White has achieved a minimal advantage. **24.Red1 Ne4?** 24...Rd8+/= **25.Bxg7+ Qxg7?+- 25...Kxg7 26.Bxe4 fxe4 27.Qc3+ Rf6 28.Rxd5± 26.Qxd5+- Rd6 27.Qa5 Qb2 28.Bxe4!** Trading down is the easiest way to convert the extra pawn. **28...fxe4 29.Rxd6 Qxc1+ 30.Kg2** Black does not have enough time to generate any threats on the f-file and cannot get his queen to f3 for an attempt at perpetual check.

30...Qb2 31.Qd2! Securing the second rank against counterplay and transferring the queen to the long diagonal if Black refuses to trade queens. **31...Qe5 32.Qd4 Re8? 33.Rd8 Kg8 34.Qxe5 1-0**

HAPPY SIXTY-FIFTH, DUNCAN! by Bruce Harper

[Duncan Suttles turned sixty-five on December 21; in his honour we present the following by Bruce Harper, first published in these pages five years ago. Bruce has since gone on to co-author (and finally publish!) *Chess on the Edge*, a three volume collection containing all of Suttles' games - ed.]

The Age of Heroes in chess has passed, extinguished by the instantaneous spread of chess fashion via ChessBase and the internet, remorseless analysis by Fritz and other chess "engines," over-analysis of openings and the general homogenization of chess styles. "New" ideas, most of which are old, are (re-)discovered by teams of seconds armed with computers, rather than by players thinking at the board. And, with rare exceptions, most grandmasters play in the same active, positional, dynamic, technically proficient, omnivorous style, which synthesizes all that has gone before them.

It was not always so. In the 1950s and 1960s, Botvinnik played "correctly," Tal was winning with stunning combinations which people (not computers) refuted only days or weeks later, Petrosian's "anti-chess" drove people crazy, and no one knew what Fischer would do next, on or off the board. Canada was fortunate to have a local hero – Duncan Suttles, who turns a young sixty-five this month.

Suttles won the Canadian Championship in 1969, became a grandmaster in 1972 (Cold War politics denied him the title several years earlier) and represented Canada in the chess Olympiad many times. His chess style was distinctive and unique. Despite the inimitable and sometimes incomprehensible way Suttles played – or perhaps because of it – he inspired a host of followers and imitators, who tread in his footsteps with varying degrees of success.

It is impossible to overstate the impact that Duncan had on B.C., and later Canadian, chess. His critics have accused him of ruining Canadian chess for a generation (high praise indeed!), and I have been told that I would have become a GM had it not been for Suttles (I don't think I needed much help to avoid that fate, but thank you for saving me, Duncan – just in case!). Classical players detested his iconoclastic approach to the game, especially when they lost to him (which was often) or when they didn't understand it (which was almost always).

Suttles' most famous trademark is probably the defence which begins with 1...g6. No one who understands this opening calls it anything but the "Rat" – the appalling and misleading name "Modern Defence" was an English creation.

Suttles played many memorable games with the Rat, winning quite a few of them. While he was the first B.C. player to have played this opening, he has not been the last. Elod Macskasy, GM Peter Biyiasas, Jonathan Berry and I all played it, as did Seattle super-GM Yasser Seirawan and various players I have worked with, including former Canadian Junior Champion Tyler Johnson and, more recently, Lesley and Andrea Cheng, Lara Heppenstall and my daughter Laura. Even if you forget how to play chess, you never forget how to play the Rat! Current B.C. Champion Jack Yoos has also been experimenting with the dark side.

My own experiences are interesting. When I was twelve I started playing in adult tournaments and learned about Duncan Suttles, then a rising chess star. I was so impressed that I started playing

1...g6, even though I had very little understanding of the ideas behind the opening. In my game scores, I initially described 1...g6 as the "Suttles Defence," or simply "Suttles." My results were not always good, although they probably were no better or worse than with other openings. Some of the games I lost were almost identical with later disasters which befell my students. But occasionally there was a game which more than made up for all the disasters:

Vogler,R - Harper,B [B06] Vancouver, 30.06.1968

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.f4 c5 4.d5 Nf6? 5.e5 Ng8 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bb5+ Kf8 I would consider this a 13-year old's interpretation of Suttles' ideas. **8.Nc3 a6 9.Bd3 Bg4 10.Qe2 b5 11.h3 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nh6 13.Rg1 Ra7 14.e6 c4 15.Qe3 Rb7 16.Bf1 Nf5 17.Qe4 Qb6 18.Rg2 Bf6 19.Ne2 a5 20.c3 Na6 21.Kd1 Nc5 22.Qc2**



I still remember this as being one of the nicest positions I've ever had. **22...fxe6 23.dxe6 Nxe6 24.Qe4 Nc5 25.Be3 Nxe4 26.Bxb6 Nxc3+ 27.Nxc3 Rxb6 28.Nd5 Rc6 29.Re2 Ng3 30.Re1 Bxb2 31.Rb1 c3 32.Kc2 Nf5 33.Re4 b4 34.Rd1 Kf7 35.Ne3 Rhc8 36.Bc4+ Rxc4 37.Nxc4 Rxc4 38.Rxc4 Ne3+**



0-1

For while there was something of a break, as I played less chess and even fewer Rats, describing the openings as "Yechh!!," "Sut," "S," and the more elaborate "Reti-Mutant."

On October 24th, 1970, I had a notable disaster against Peter Biyiasas, the opening (1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6) being described as "Thing," with a post-game note "(Never play again)." I held to this, playing various other openings, but this period of abstinence didn't last. On June 23rd, 1971, I fell off the wagon. I was clearly in denial, though, as I described the opening in the game as a "King's Indian Defence," although I later wrote "Rat" on the scoresheet, in a different pen, for the first time using the proper name for the opening.

The game was a keeper, and can be considered another milestone in my fall from chess grace:

Raymond,H - Harper,B [A42] Peace Arch op Bellingham (3), 23.01.1971

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Nge2 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.Be3 Nh6 8.f3 f5 9.b4 f4 10.Bf2 Nf7 11.Qb3 g5 12.c5 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Rc1 Bd7 15.a4 g4 16.Rc2 Ng5 17.Ng1 a6 18.a5 0-0 19.Bb6 Qe8 20.Bd3 Ng6 21.Bc7 Rf6 22.b5 Nh4 23.Kf2 Rc8 24.b6 Rg6



White has badly misplayed his attack on the queenside, while Black has a dream position on the kingside. **25.Qb2 Bf8 26.Na2 Ba4 27.Rc3 gxf3 28.g3 Qd7 29.Nxf3 Nh3+ 30.Ke2 Qg4 31.Rf1 Nxf3 32.Rxf3 Ng1+ 33.Kf2 Nxf3 34.Be2** Now Black has mate in four, which I saw. What stuck in my mind ever since was the strange way so many pieces, including White's c3-rook and b3-queen, are in just the right places to make the mate work. **34...fxg3+ 35.Ke3 Bh6+ 36.Kd3 Ne1+ 37.Kc4 Qxe4#**



This game foreshadowed what was to coming, but maybe I didn't want to press my luck, as there followed few Rats, but many French Defences, Benko Gambits and other openings. But clearly my increasingly frequent blitz sessions with Duncan were having an effect, as February 21st, 1972, saw a Portland Attack (1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 2.d3 g6 4.g4!?) against Oszvald (a win), and on March 10th, 1972, another "Rat" against Hladek (also a win). By the time I got to the B.C. Championship in May 1972, it was all Rats and Pircs, with some success.

The rest, as they say, is history. By the mid-1970s, Duncan and I were playing four- or five-hour blitz sessions several times a week, and his "strange," "bizarre" and "weird" style seemed quite normal to me. Decades later, at the Western Canadian Open [2004], I played five Rats/Pircs/King's Indians with Black (scoring 4 out of 5), as opposed to five different first moves with White (scoring 3 out of 5). Even Duncan's (somewhat apocryphal) inability to win with White seems to have had some influence on my play...

Surprising as it may seem in today's world, where most aspiring young players have paid coaches and trainers, who follow a systematic and structure curriculum (the Soviet Union's greatest bequest to the world), neither I nor anyone else ever received a formal lesson from Duncan, nor was he ever paid for the knowledge he imparted to others. We just played chess. Even at the height of his fame, Duncan also played in local tournaments, when other top players would have refused to play or demanded impossible appearance fees (in 1973, Duncan won the Canadian and U.S. Opens, then finished the summer by playing in – and winning – the Victoria Labour Day tournament). More recently, Duncan continues to donate his time and energy to fund-raising events.

It is hard to find anything other than nice things to say about Grandmaster Duncan Suttles, who has shown us all how to stay young.

But you might be wondering just what inspired us all to play 1...g6, refuse to develop our pieces when there were pawns to be moved, try to destroy enemy centres rather than create our own, and so on. In any good blitz session with Suttles, you were likely to see games like this:

Rivera,D - Suttles,D [A42] US op San Juan, 1965

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.f3 f5 8.c5 Nf6 9.Bb5+ Kf7 10.h3 f4 11.Bf2 g5 12.Nge2 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Qb3 g4 15.0-0-0 g3 16.Be1 Ng6 17.Ng1 Nh4 18.Bf1



Who's developed now? White's kingside pieces have returned to their original squares, and the pressure on g2 is annoying, but how can Black break through on the kingside? He can't, but he can open a second front. **18...a6 19.Kb1 b5 20.Nge2 Nd7 21.Nc1 Nc5 22.Qc2 Bd7 23.b4 Na4 24.Nb3 Nxc3+ 25.Bxc3 Qb6 26.Na5 Rhc8 27.Qd2 Ra7 28.Bb2 Bf6 29.Rc1 Rxc1+ 30.Bxc1 Bd8 31.Kc2 Rc7+ 32.Kd1 Rc8 33.Nb3 Qa7 34.Bd3 Bb6** One of Suttles' greatest strengths was his uncanny ability to find the best squares for all his pieces. **35.Re1 Bf2 36.Bf1 Bxe1 37.Qxe1**



White has started to set up his pieces for the next game, but he's so rattled he has his king and queen backwards. **37...Qg1 38.Qe2 Bxh3 0-1**

Mihajlovic,M - Suttles,D [A42] US op Chicago (7), 19.08.1973

1.d4 g6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.Nge2 Nh6 7.d5 Ne7 8.h3 f5 9.f3 f4 10.Bf2 0-0 11.Nc1 g5 12.Nd3 c5 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Qd2 Be6 15.b3 Nf7 16.Rd1 h5 17.Be2 Qc8 18.Rc1 Ng6 19.Nb4 Rd8 20.Qc2 Qb7 21.a3 Bf8 22.Rb1 Kg7 23.c5 a5 24.Nba2 d5 25.Bd3 d4 26.Na4 Nh6 27.Nc1 Qf7 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4



With the centre settled, Black now begins a version of the "standard roll-up." **29...g4 30.hxg4 hxg4 31.Ke2 Be7 32.Nb6 Ra7 33.Nb3 g3 34.Be1 Nh4 35.Kf1 Rh8 36.Na5**



36...Ng4 37.fxg4 f3 38.Rxh4 Rxh4 39.Be2 fxe2+ Here White resigned. Black has a mate in four, in a spooky parallel to my game with Raymond: 40.Kxe2 Bxg4+ 41.Kd2 Bg5+ 42.Kd3 Qf1+, etc.



Who wouldn't want to play chess like this?

Happy Birthday, Duncan – and may you have many more!

Postscript: ICC is always a good way to relax after working hard writing a chess article. Immediately after finishing this birthday tribute, I played the follow 3-minute game on ICC:

Guest5788 - Kingwalker, ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club, 08.12.2005

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.a4 b4 7.Nd1 a5 8.c4 Nc6 9.Ne2 h6 10.Be3 e5 11.d5 Nce7 12.Rc1 f5 13.f3 Nf6 14.Qc2 f4 15.Bf2 g5 16.b3 h5 17.Nb2 Ng6 18.Nd3 g4 19.c5 Bd7 20.c6 Bc8 21.Nb2 Nh7 22.Nc4 Ng5 23.Ng1 Bf6 24.Be2 Kf7 25.fxg4 hxg4



26.Nd2 g3 27.hxg3 Rxh1 28.g4 Qh8 29.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 30.Bxf3 Qh2 31.Kd2 Bh4 0-1

B.C. Active Championship 2011

Date: Saturday-Sunday 8-9 January, 2011

Location: Vancouver Bridge Centre, 2776 East Broadway (at Kaslo), Vancouver Rounds: 9

Round Times: Saturday Rd1 10:30am Rd 2 Noon Lunch Rd3 2:00 Rd4 3:30 Rd5 5:00 Sunday Rd6 10:30 Rd7 noon Lunch Rd8 2:00 Rd9 3:30

Type: Regular Swiss.

Time Controls: G/25 + 10 sec. increments or G/30.

Entry Fee: \$40 (\$5 off by registering by email by Thursday Jan. 05), Free coffee or tea.

Prizes: 1st \$300 (Guaranteed) Rest based on entries, if 35 entries then 2nd \$250 3rd \$200

BU2200 \$100 BU2050 \$100 BU1900 \$100 Biggest Upset \$50

The Vancouver Active rating will be used or the CFC regular.

Registration: On site at 9:30am or contact Luc Poitras at (778) 846-0496 email: lucque@shaw.ca

Bring your chess set and clock if you have one. No membership required.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior

<http://www.juniorchess.ca/events.html>

<http://victoriajuniorchess.pbworks.com/Tournament-Schedule>

UBC Thursday Night Swiss

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre room 191, 1961 East Mall, University of British Columbia

Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca

B.C. Active Championship

January 8-9, 2011, Vancouver

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#activechamp>

New Year Open

January 15-16, 2011, Richmond

Details: <http://www.juniorchess.ca/events.html>

EAC Chess Arts Open #4

January 29-31, 2011, Surrey

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#eacs>

Active Fundraiser for the GPO (see below)

February 20, 2011, Victoria

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#gpoactive>

Grand Pacific Open

April 22-25, 2011, Victoria

Details: <http://chess.bc.ca/events.shtml#gpo>