

# BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #337

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](mailto:swright2@telus.net)); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

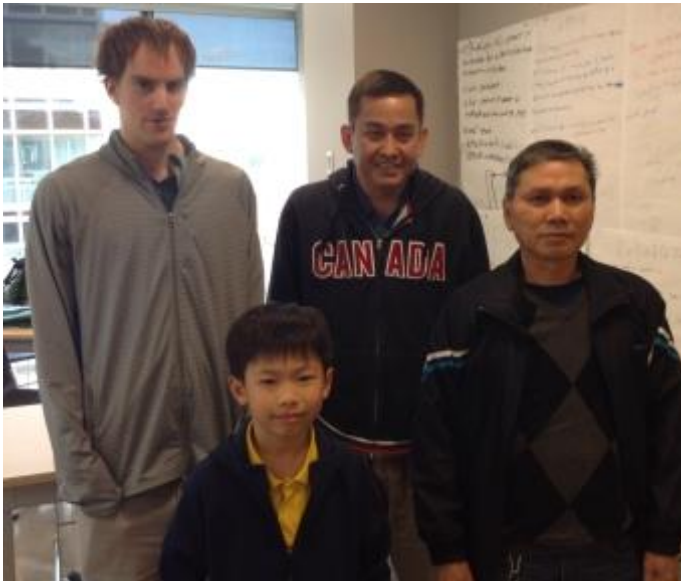
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## HERE AND THERE

### **BCCF Annual General Meeting** (May 21)

The BCCF Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday May 21 between the third and fourth rounds of the Keres Memorial, beginning around 3:00 pm. We encourage you to come out and attend the AGM: the executive for the coming year will be elected, and there will also be opportunity to voice concerns, comments, and ideas about how organized chess is run in B.C. The BCCF is your federation – it is only as strong as those involved in it, your help is needed. Please note that anyone may attend, but voting is restricted to BCCF members (anyone who has played in a CFC-rated event in the last year, plus select TDs and organizers) aged fourteen or over.

### **May Active** (May 13)



After skipping April the VCS monthly active returned on May 13 with fewer participants than usual. Almost a permanent fixture in these events, top-ranked Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj held a 200+ point rating advantage over the rest of the field but lost to Gilberto Igharas in the fifth round, setting up a three-way tie for first on 5.0/6 between Davaa, Gilberto, and Jose Kagaoan (Jose lost to Davaa but beat Gilberto). Trailing at a considerable distance in the thirteen-player Open Section were Nathan Wu and Jonathan Steif with 3.5 points – they shared the U1600 prizes.

There were ten players in the Junior Section, including three rated over 1000, but no one emerged unscathed as Borna Amjadi and Tiger Xu tied for first with 4.0/5 – Borna received the U1300

trophy, Tiger the U1000. The U600 trophy went to Coen Holmgren and medals were awarded to Gillian Mok, Patrick Wang, Kate Jiang, and Alex Zou. Thanks are due to organizer Maxim Doroshenko and host Columbia College; watch for the next event on [June 3](#).



### **School Team Championship** (May 13)



Round 3: Marlborough vs. St. George's

The fifteenth edition of the B.C. School Team Chess Championship took place at its traditional home, St. George's Junior School, on May 13. Organized by Luc Poitras, the tournament attracted nineteen teams representing fourteen schools. In the A Section the home team won the championship for the seventh time (they were previously winners in 2006-2010 and 2015) with 17.5 points, ahead of defending champions Marlborough (Burnaby) and Suncrest (Burnaby). The B Section saw the top two places reversed, Marlborough emerging victorious over St. George's B, while Summit was third. Report at the [West Coast Junior Chess](#) website.

The honour roll:

2001 Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
2002 Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
2003 Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
2004 Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
2005 Queen Mary  
2006 St. George's Junior  
2007 St. George's Junior  
2008 St. George's Junior  
2009 St. George's Junior

2010 St. George's Junior  
2011 Lochiel U-Connect  
2012 Lochiel U-Connect  
2013 Erma Stephenson  
2014 Erma Stephenson  
2015 St. George's  
2016 Marlborough  
2017 St. George's

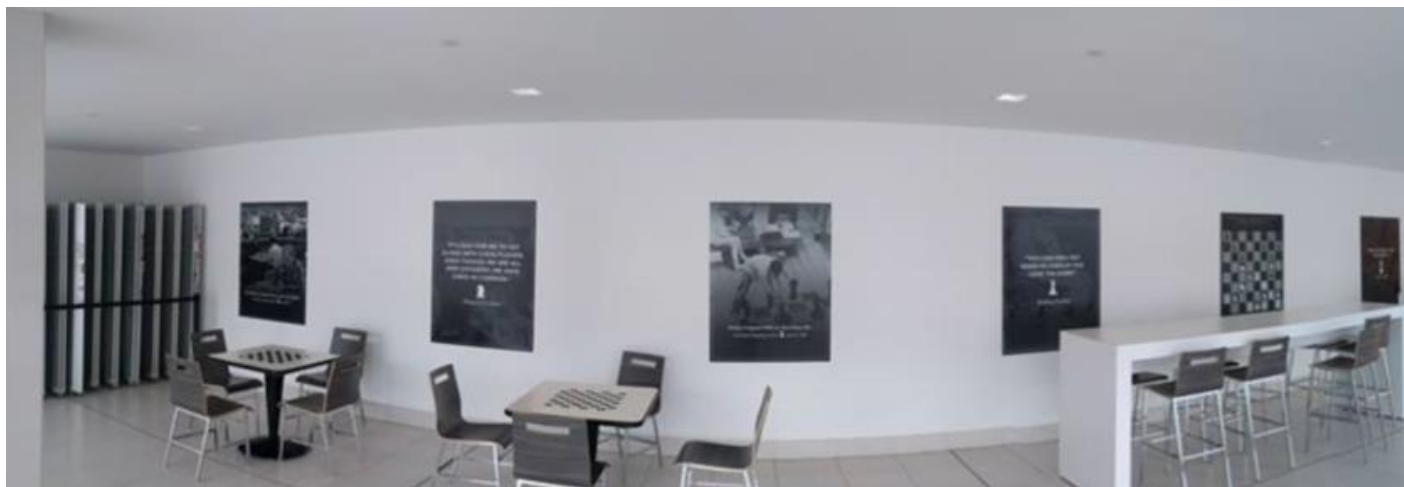
### **BC SPFGI Qualifier** (April 23)

The most prestigious all-girl event in the United States is the Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational, now in its fourteenth year. Last year for the first time Canadian provinces were allowed to nominate official representatives to the tournament. This practice continues this year, and for the second year in a row the BC representative was determined through a qualification event held under the auspices of the Golden Knights Chess Club (Valer Eugen Demian) at the Charles Rummel Centre in Burnaby. This year five players participated in an active round robin but it was the youngest player, Sophia Yu (grade 3) who won the qualification spot with a perfect 4.0/4.

[Standings](#)

### **Park Royal Chess Players**

In the "how things have changed" category: just over a year ago chess was receiving all sorts of publicity in the local media through the attempts of the Park Royal Shopping Centre management to evict a group of chess players from the centre's food court (see [Bulletin #317](#)). The management subsequently reconsidered their decision and after negotiations with the players generously offered them a renovated space elsewhere at Park Royal – the spectacular results can be seen below. More photos can be found on [Facebook](#).





## 26<sup>th</sup> BC – WA SCHOLASTIC MATCH (INTERMAT) (May 6)

This year it was the turn of our Washington neighbours to host the annual Interimat scholastic match, now in its twenty-sixth year. So on May 6 twenty-six (coincidentally) of our best juniors, two from each grade 1-12 plus kindergarten, journeyed to the Seattle Centre to do chessic battle with their corresponding numbers from Washington. Traditionally BC has scored heavily in the upper grades, Washington in the lower, but this generalization has been breaking down in recent years; a more important factor is the respective teams' difficulty in recruiting their best lineup when playing away from home (the match alternates between BC and Washington).



Playing white on all boards in the first round, Washington built up a significant three-game lead to the tune of 14.5-11.5, meaning they just had to score 12.0 points in the second round to win the match. With BC playing white the team roared back with eight unanswered wins, leaving them ahead by five games. However, this lead seemed rather precarious as BC stood worse in most of the remaining games. Washington fought back to within two games but in a dramatic finish BC managed to hold on to take the match by that margin – a “near-run thing.” The traditional generalization mentioned above is changing as the players get older and move upward through the grades: this year Washington dominated the upper grades by the score of 14.0-6.0, with BC not winning any of the mini-matches in grades 8-12. Fortunately for BC their grade 6 and 7 players negated this deficit by winning all their games, and in the lower grades BC won three of the mini-matches (K, 2, 4) compared to two for Washington (1, 5) with one tie (3).

In terms of individual results, BC's Neil Doknjas and Patrick Huang swept their Washington grade 6 opponents, as did Andrew Hempstapat and Leo Qu in grade 7. Other BC players with a perfect score were William Jiang (K) and Ryan Yang (2), while Benjamin Wu (4), Aiden Zhou (5), Luke Pulfer (8), Joshua Doknjas (9), and John Doknjas (12) had plus scores. On the Washington side Kyle Haining and Noah Fields swept their grade 11 opponents, Hansol O'Brien (1), Owen Xuan (3), and Roland Feng (10) had perfect scores, while those with plus scores were Joseph Levine (4), Eric Zhang (5), Addison Lee (8), and Samuel He (12).

The match was organized by the Washington Chess Federation and the Washington International FIDE Academy of Chess; the BCCF Interimat Organizing Committee consisted of Michael Lo, Curtis Lister, and Stephen Wright. Josh Sinanan and Chouchanik Airapetian were the Washington team captains, Michael Lo and Victoria Jung-Doknjas fulfilled that role for BC. Many thanks to all who helped make the match a success. [Match website](#); [previous results](#)

Overall Washington now has a 13-12 lead in match victories, with one draw:

Year	Location	Victor	Year	Location	Victor
1991	White Rock	BC	2004	Seattle	BC
1992	Mountlake Terrace	WA	2005	Burnaby	BC
1993	Burnaby	WA	2006	Bellevue	WA
1994	Mountlake Terrace	BC	2008	New Westminster	BC
1995	Burnaby	WA	2009	Bellevue	WA
1996	Shorewood	WA	2010	New Westminster	WA
1997	Burnaby	BC	2011	Bellevue	BC
1998	Shorewood	BC	2012	Richmond	tie
1999	Burnaby	WA	2013	Bellevue	WA
2000	Seattle	WA	2014	Vancouver	BC
2001	Burnaby	BC	2015	Bellevue	WA
2002	Seattle	WA	2016	Vancouver	BC
2003	Burnaby	WA	2017	Seattle	BC

\*the lack of a result for 2007 corresponds to moving the event from December to April/May within the school year. Note that neither team has been able to win the match three years in a row.

Two close games – the remaining games from the match can be found in the attached PGN file.

### **Yu, Jason - Gu, Chuyang [B78] InterMat Seattle (1.12), 06.05.2017**

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 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Kb1 Re8 13.h4 h5 14.g4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4 16.Nde2 Qa5 17.Bd4 e5 18.Be3 Rc6 19.Ng3 b5 20.a3 Rec8 21.g5 b4 22.Na2 Rxc2 23.Qxb4 Qc7 24.gxf6 Rb8 25.Qxb8+ Qxb8 26.Kxc2 Ba4+ 27.Kb1 Bxd1 28.Rxd1 Bxf6 29.Nc3 Bxh4 30.Nge2 Be7 31.Nd5 Bf8 32.Bg5 Qb3 33.Nec3 Kg7 34.Bf6+ Kh7 35.f4 exf4 36.Nxf4 d5 37.Nfxd5 Bxa3 38.Rd2 Bc5 39.Re2 a5 40.Kc1 a4 41.Be5 a3 42.bxa3 Bxa3+ 43.Kd2 Qb2+ 44.Kd3 Qb7 45.Bd4 g5 46.Rg2 Kg6 47.Be3 Qa6+ 48.Kc2 f6 49.e5 Qb7 50.Rg1 Qb2+ 51.Kd3 fxe5 52.Rxg5+ Kf7 53.Rxe5 h4 54.Rh5 Qh2 55.Rh7+ Kg6 56.Rd7 Kf5 57.Rf7+ Ke6 58.Rf6+ Kd7 59.Nb6+ Ke8 60.Ncd5 Bd6 61.Nc4 Bb8 62.Re6+ Kd7 63.Re7+ Kc6 64.Nb4+ Kb5 65.Rb7+ Ka4 66.Nd5 Be5 67.Rb4# 1–0

### **Qu, Leo - Roberts, Teddy [D02] InterMat Seattle (2.15), 06.05.2017**

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bd3 Be7 6.Nbd2 0–0 7.h3 b6 8.Qe2 Bb7 9.0–0–0 c5 10.c3 c4 11.Bc2 b5 12.Ne5 a5 13.Ndf3 b4 14.g4 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 a4 16.Ng5 a3 17.Bxf6 axb2+ 18.Kd2 bxc3+ 19.Ke1 Bxf6 20.Nxh7 Re8 21.g5 Be7 22.Qh5 f5 23.gxf6 Bxf6 24.Rg1 e5 25.Bg6 Rf8 26.Ng5 Re8 27.Bh7+ Kf8 28.Qf7# 1–0

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## **BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES**

### **Harper, Bruce - Opponent [A00] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club**

**1.g3** [0:02:56] **1...c6** [0:03:00] **2.Bg2** [0:02:55] **2...d5** [0:02:59] **3.d3** [0:02:55] **3...g6** [0:02:59] **4.Nc3** [0:02:54] **4...Bg7** [0:02:58] **5.Bd2** [0:02:54] **5...Nf6** [0:02:57] **6.Qc1** [0:02:52] **6...0–0** [0:02:56] **7.Bh6** [0:02:51] **7...e5** [0:02:55] **8.h4!?**



This probably shouldn't work, but it often does.

**8...Re8!**? [0:02:53] **9.Bxg7** [0:02:45] **9...Kxg7** [0:02:52]  
**10.h5!**? An actual pawn sacrifice, but it's the only way for White to make sense of his 8th move. **10...Nxh5** [0:02:51] **11.Bf3** [0:02:40] **11...Nf6** [0:02:48] **12.Qh6+** [0:02:38] **12...Kg8** [0:02:48] **13.g4** This is White's idea. **13...Bxg4** [0:02:33] **14.Bxg4** [0:02:32] **14...Nxg4** [0:02:32] **15.Qxh7+** [0:02:31] **15...Kf8** White has to have compensation for his pawn. **16.Qh8+** [0:02:25] **16...Ke7** [0:02:30] **17.Qh4+** [0:02:25] **17...Nf6** [0:02:28] **18.e4** [0:02:23] **18...Kd6** [0:02:24] **19.f4** [0:02:18] **19...Nbd7** [0:02:14] **20.0-0-0** [0:02:15] **20...Kc7** [0:02:13] **21.fxe5**



**21.Nf3** might be better, but time is running out, as Black can now contest the h-file. **21...Nxe5** [0:02:07] **22.d4** [0:01:57] **22...Nc4** [0:01:59] **23.Rf1** [0:01:53] **23...Nxe4** [0:01:53] **24.Rxf7+** [0:01:49] **24...Kb6** Unfortunately, this is not the winning breakthrough for which White had hoped. **25.Qxd8+** [0:01:36] **25...Raxd8** [0:01:48] **26.Nge2** [0:01:27] **26...Nxc3** [0:01:35] **27.Nxc3** [0:01:24] **27...Nd6** [0:01:18] **28.Rg7** [0:01:19] **28...Rg8** [0:01:15] **29.Rhh7**



White no longer has his compensation, but Black still has his pawn. **29...g5** Black has come up with a plan. What is White to do? **30.b3!**? [0:01:06] **30...g4** Black is over-confident. **30...a6!** was correct. **31.Na4+** [0:01:04] **31...Ka5** [0:01:09] **32.Nc5** [0:01:02] **32...g3?**





Black has calculated 33. Nxb7+? Nxb7 34. Rxb7 Ra8 as winning, but... **33.Rxb7!** [0:00:52] **33...Nxb7** [0:00:58] **34.Rxb7** [0:00:50] **34...g2**



You can't criticize Black for lack of consistency. **35.b4#** [0:00:47] Black is checkmated. **1-0**

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### CHARLES BLAKE (12 June 1880 – 18 May 1961)

Historically the British Columbia chess scene, like the province itself, has been built and enriched by the arrival of immigrants, whether from overseas or from other parts of Canada. A number of Winnipeg players moved to the West Coast, including Dave Creemer, Abe Helman, Nathan Divinsky, Peter Biyiasas, and more recently Jack Yoos. One of Canada's most important early twentieth century players eventually moved to B.C., admittedly long after his best playing days were over: Charles Blake.

Born in London, England in 1880, Blake moved to Winnipeg in 1903. He read law before being called to the Manitoba Bar in 1909; two years later Blake moved to Brandon and set up his own practice. He served in France during the First World War, rising to the rank of major by its end. Blake returned to Brandon after the war but left the province for Ontario in 1925; he was subsequently called to the Ontario Bar in 1929 and the British Columbia Bar in 1949. He was still active as a lawyer when he passed away in White Rock, B.C. at the age of eighty.



Winnipeg, 21 April 1906. From left to right: Magnus Smith, Géza Maróczy, Charles Blake, J. Wildman, H.H. Currie, R.J. Spencer.

Blake learnt chess in 1897 and was already a strong player when he arrived in Winnipeg. He was the only local player who could compete with fellow Winnipegger and Canadian champion Magnus Smith on something resembling even terms, although Smith generally finished ahead of Blake in competitions. After Smith moved to New York in 1907 Blake stepped into his shoes as the premier player in the area; apart from winning the Northwest championship five times in succession, Blake was twice runner-up in the Canadian championship (1909 and 1913) and in 1911 won the Western Chess Association championship (the precursor to the U.S. Open). Moving to Brandon curtailed Blake's chess activities as did the Great War, although he provided a brilliancy prize for the 1918 Northwest tournament whilst on leave. He did make the journey from Brandon to Winnipeg to play in the Northwest competitions 1923-25 and won two of those championships before moving to Ontario.



Blake played in several more Canadian championships in the 1920s, generally finishing in the middle of the field. His last such event was in Hamilton in 1931, when he was apparently living in Windsor. After moving to this province he played in the BC - WA matches of 1949, 1950, and 1951, despite being around seventy years old at the time. His obituary in the White Rock Sun makes no



mention of his military career or chess accomplishments. There are certainly soldiers who would prefer to forget their wartime service, but more likely by the time of Blake's passing there was no one left in the area who knew his early background: his wife had predeceased him by several years, and they left no offspring.

**Blake, Charles - Elliott, Edward P [C61] WCA 6th Excelsior, 08.1905**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Bc4 Nxf3+ 5.Qxf3 Nf6 6.Qb3 Qe7 7.Nc3 b6 8.Nb5 Kd8 9.d3 Ng4 10.Be3 Nxe3 11.fxe3 Qg5 12.0-0-0 Qxe3+ 13.Kb1 f6 14.Rhe1 Qf2 15.d4 a6 16.Re2 Qh4 17.g3 Qh5 18.Nc3 Bd6 19.dxe5 Bxe5 20.Bf7 Qf3 21.Red2 Bxc3 22.bxc3 Ra7 23.Bd5 d6 24.e5 Qe3 25.exd6 Qc5 26.dxc7+ Kxc7 27.Bc4 Bg4 28.Be2 Bxe2 29.Qf7+ Kc6 30.Qxa7 Qb5+ 31.Kc1 Qg5 32.Qd7+ 1-0

**Blake, Charles - Smith, Magnus Magnusson [C30] Match Winnipeg (7), 04.12.1905**

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 d6 5.f4 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nd4 9.Qg3 Qe7 10.Bb3 exf4 11.Bxf4 Nh5 12.Qg4 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Bb4 14.0-0 Bxc3 15.Qxf7+ Qxf7 16.Bxf7+ Ke7 17.bxc3 Ne2+ 18.Kh2 Nxc3 19.Bd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Rhf8 21.Rae1+ Kd7 22.Kg3 b5 23.Rb1 a6 24.Rxf8 Rxf8 25.c4 Rb8 26.cxb5 Rxb5 27.Rxb5 axb5 28.Kf4 c6 29.dxc6+ Kxc6 30.Ke4 d5+ 31.Ke5 Kc5 32.a3 g5 33.g4 h6 34.Ke6 Kd4 35.Kd6 Kxd3 36.Kxd5 Kc3 37.Kc5 Kb3 38.Kxb5 Kxa3 39.Kc4 Kb2 40.Kd3 Kc1 41.Ke4 Kd2 42.Kf5 Ke3 43.Kg6 Kf4 44.Kxh6 Kg3 45.Kxg5 Kxh3 46.Kh5 1-0

**Spencer, Robert John - Blake, Charles [C31] Northwest ch playoff Winnipeg (3), 07.03.1907**

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe5 Bc5 5.Qh5 Be6 6.Nxf7 Bxf7 7.Qxc5 Ne7 8.d3 Nd7 9.Qd4 exd3 10.Bxd3 0-0 11.0-0 Nc6 12.Qc3 Nf6 13.b3 Nd5 14.Qb2 Ndb4 15.Be4 Qd4+ 16.Qxd4 Nxd4 17.Na3 Ne2+ 18.Kh1 Nxc1 19.Rfxc1 Bd5 20.c3 Bxe4 21.cxb4 Rxf4 22.Rc4 Raf8 23.Kg1 Rg4 24.g3 h5 25.Re1 Bf3 26.Rxg4 Bxg4 27.Nb5 Rd8 28.Nxc7 Rd2 29.Ra1 Bf3 30.Re1 Rxa2 31.Ne6 Rg2+ 32.Kf1 Rxh2 33.Ng5 Rh1+ 34.Kf2 Rxe1 35.Kxe1 Bd5 36.Nh3 Bxb3 37.Nf4 Bf7 38.Kf2 b6 39.Ke3 a5 40.bxa5 bxa5 41.Nd3 a4 42.Kf4 a3 43.Nb4 a2 44.Nxa2 Bxa2 0-1

**Blake, Charles - Lasker, Emanuel [C79] Simul Winnipeg, 06.1907**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 b5 7.Bb3 Bg4 8.d3 Nd4 9.Be3 Nxf3+ 10.gxf3 Bh5 11.Kh1 Qd7 12.Rg1 c6 13.Rg3 h6 14.Ne2 g5 15.a4 Qb7 16.d4 Nd7 17.Rh3 Nf6 18.Ng3 Bg6 19.Bxg5 hxg5 20.Rxh8 0-0-0 21.axb5 axb5 22.Nf5 d5 23.Rxf8 Bxf5 24.Rxd8+ Kxd8 25.dxe5 Qc7 26.Ra8+ Kd7 27.exf6 1-0

**Morrison, John Stuart - Blake, Charles [D05] CAN-ch playoff Winnipeg, 1913**

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Bd3 Bg4 6.Nbd2 e5 7.dxe5 Nxe5 8.Bc2 Bd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 Re8 11.h3 Bh5 12.Nf1 Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 Ne4 14.Ng3 Qg5 15.Bxe4 Bxg3 16.Qxd5 Re5 17.Qc4 Bh4+ 18.Kf1 Rae8 19.Bxb7 Qf6 20.f4 Qf5 21.Kg1 R5e6 22.Qf1 Rg6+ 23.Kh2 Qc2 24.f5 Rg5 25.e4 Bg3+ 0-1

**Schain, G - Blake, Charles [A28] BC - WA m Seattle, 03.07.1949**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.e3 Be7 5.Be2 d6 6.0-0 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.b3 Bg6 9.Bb2 Qd7 10.d4 e4 11.Nd2 0-0 12.Qb1 Rfe8 13.Ncxe4 Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Bd8 15.Bd3 Nb4 16.f3 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Qe7

18.Rae1 Bxe4 19.fxe4 Qxe4 20.Qxe4 Rxe4 21.Rf3 Bf6 22.Rf4 Rae8 23.Rxe4 Rxe4 24.g3 c5  
25.Kf2 Kf8 26.Kf3 Re8 27.Re2 Ke7 28.d5 Bxb2 29.Rxb2 Kd7 30.a3 a5 31.b4 axb4 32.axb4 cxb4  
33.Rxb4 Kc7 34.e4 Re5 35.g4 g5 36.Rb5 b6 37.Rb3 Kb7 38.Ra3 Re8 39.Ke3 f6 40.Kd4 Rg8  
41.Kc3 Ra8 42.Rxa8 Kxa8 43.Kb4 1/2-1/2

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Paul Keres Memorial**

May 20-22, Richmond

[Details](#)

### **Washington Open**

May 27-29, Lynnwood, WA

[Details](#)

### **Fischer-Taimanov Thematic Match**

May 28, Vancouver

[Details](#)

### **June Active**

June 3, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **Full Cupboard Fundraiser**

June 10, Delta

[Details](#)

### **BC Senior Championship**

June 16-18, Victoria

[Details](#)

### **Woodpushers' Challenge**

June 25, Burnaby

[Details](#)

### **July Active**

July 22, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **Semiahmoo Open**

August 5-7, Surrey

[Details](#)

### **August Active**

August 12, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **9<sup>th</sup> Bowser Builders Tournament**

August 13, Bowser (Vancouver Island)

[Details](#)