

# BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #345

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

### World Cadet Chess Championships (August 22-31)



Originally scheduled for Brasília, the World Cadet Championships (the lower age groups U8, U10, U12 from the former WYCC) have just finished in Poços de Caldas, Brazil. Famous for its hot springs, the city of Poços de Caldas is located some one hundred and fifty miles north of São Paulo. Four hundred and nine players participated in the various sections differentiated by age and gender; fifteen of these were Canadian, including Kate Jiang and Aiden Zhou from this province. The best Canadian result was that of Anthony Atanasov in the U10 Open Section, who scored 7.5/11 and tied for seventh, finishing seventh on tiebreaks. Aiden (U12 Open) scored 4.5/5 in his last five games to also amass 7.5 points; this left him in a tie for sixth but thirteenth on tiebreak. He did have the satisfaction of beating sixth-seed American Christopher Yoo (rated 2242) in the last round. And Kate (U10 Girls) was a creditable minus one (5.0/11) in her first international event, tying for thirty-second and placing thirty-seventh. [Tournament website](#) [U10G standings](#) [U12O standings](#)

**Pacheco Arteaga, Natalia - Jiang, Kate [C59] WCCC U10G Pocos de Caldas (4.24), 24.08.2017**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nf3 e4 10.Ne5 Bc5 11.0-0 Qd6 12.Nc4 Nxc4 13.Bxc4 Ng4 14.g3 h5 15.d3 h4 16.dxe4 Bxf2+ 17.Kg2 Qc5 18.Qf3 Qxc4 19.Rxf2 hxg3 20.b3 Qe6 21.Qxg3 Rxh2+ 22.Kg1 Rxf2 23.Qh3 Qd6 24.Qh8+ Kd7 25.Qh3 Qd1+ 26.Qf1 Qxf1# 0-1

## **Zhou, Aiden - Canaza Capacuti, Frank [A84] WCCC U12 Pocos de Caldas (7.21), 28.08.2017**

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 d5 5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 0–0 8.h3 Bd7 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.Qb3 b6 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.Nxd5 exd5 13.Qxd5+ Kh8 14.Qxa8 Bb4+ 15.Ke2 Qh4 16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.Nxd7 Nxd7 18.Qd5 Qd8 19.a3 Be7 20.Rac1 Qe8 21.Rc7 Nf6 22.Qe5 Rf7 23.Rhc1 Ng8 24.Bg5 Qf8 25.Bf4 Qe8 26.Kf1 Qd8 27.Kg1 Bf6 28.Qd6 Qe8 29.Rc8 1–0

### **European Excursions**

Ethan and Kevin Low returned to Europe to participate in several tournaments in the summer circuit based in and around Barcelona (it will be recalled they played in Spain over the last Christmas holidays). First up was the [19<sup>th</sup> Sant Martí Open](#) (July 13-21), Sant Martí being a district on the east side of Barcelona. Playing in the B Group they scored 5.0 and 6.5 points respectively, the latter being good enough for twelfth place in the one hundred and sixty player field. David Peña Mor won the B Group, while the overall winner was Peruvian IM Fernando Fernandez with 8.0/9. Then it was off to Sitges, a town on the Mediterranean about twenty miles southwest of Barcelona for the [43<sup>rd</sup> Sitges Open](#) (July 22-30). Here Kevin played in the A Group, scoring 4.0 points with a performance rating just over 2100; the one hundred and thirty-two player section was dominated by Peruvian GM Jorge Cori with 8.5/9. In the [B Group](#) Ethan had trouble winning games, finishing on minus one with six draws. They then retraced their steps in travelling to the [43<sup>rd</sup> Badalona Open](#) (August 2-10), a city immediately to the north east of Barcelona. In the one hundred and forty-three player open Ethan scored 3.5 and Kevin 4.0 points (the latter with a performance rating again close to 2100). GM Karen Grigoryan and IM Tigran S. Petrosyan (both Armenia) tied for first on 7.5/9, with Grigoryan taking the title on tiebreak.

Meanwhile James Chan was playing elsewhere in Europe along with fellow Canadians Michael Kleinman and Mike Ivanov. They began in the town of Fano on the Adriatic Coast of Italy, where the A Section of the [6<sup>th</sup> Fano Open](#) (July 29 – August 5) drew forty-eight entrants. First was Ukrainian GM Sergey Fedorchuk with 7.5/9; Kleinman tied for fourth with 6.0 points, Ivanov had 50% and James performed slightly higher than his rating in amassing 4.0 points.

## **Maddens, Martijn - Chan, James [B22] Fano Summer op A 6th (4.14), 31.07.2017**

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 e6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Qe2 b6 10.Rd1 Bb7 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 Na6 13.Bf4 Nc7 14.Rac1 Ne6 15.Bg3 a6 16.Qd2 Qd7 17.Ne1 f5 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Nf3 g6 20.Ne2 a5 21.Nf4 Ng7 22.h3 Rac8 23.Qd3 Nf5 24.Bh2 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Rc8 26.Re1 Re8 27.Rxe8+ Qxe8 28.g4 Nh4 29.Nxh4 Qe1+ 30.Qf1 Qxf1+ 31.Kxf1 Bxh4 32.Ne2 Be7 33.Nc3 Kf7 34.Ke2 Ba6+ 35.Ke3 Ke6 36.a4 Bf1 37.Ne2 Kd7 38.f3 Bf6 39.Nc3 Kc6 40.Nb5 Be7 41.Nc3 Bxh3 42.Kf2 h5 43.Kg3 hxg4 44.fxg4 Bf1 45.Kf2 Bd3 46.Bf4 Bc4 47.g5 b5 48.axb5+ Bxb5 49.Ke3 Bc4 50.Kd2 Bb3 51.Ne2 Kd7 52.Ng3 a4 53.Kc3 Bd1 54.Kb4 Kc6 55.Nf1 ½–½

Then it was off to a very different coast, the eastern side of the Baltic for the [7<sup>th</sup> Riga Technical University Open](#) (August 7-13). The three hundred and nineteen player A tournament included forty-two grandmasters, eight over them over 2600; also among the participants was another Canadian, Chessbrah Aman Hambleton. The overall winners were GM Vladimir Onischuk and IM Sergey Pavlov (both Ukraine) with 7.5/9. All the Canadians experienced modest rating gains: Hambleton scored 6.0/9 and placed thirtieth, Kleinman and Ivanov finished with 50%, and Chan scored 4.0 points again. They also all played in the adjunct [blitz](#) event, where Hambleton tied for third with 9.0/11; the winner was American junior IM Andrew Tang.

Finally James, Michael, and Mike crossed the continent to join Ethan and Kevin and Joe Roback in participating in the [19<sup>th</sup> Sants Open](#) (August 18-27) in Barcelona. As fate would have it the start of the tournament was the day after the terrorist attack along Las Ramblas in the centre of the city; despite the carnage Catalonians continued with their daily lives, uncowed. The Open attracted a record number of participants in its three sections, just under eight hundred, including twenty-six grandmasters.



Joe Roback, Raven Sturt (America), Mike Ivanov, James Chan, Michael Kleinman

The final winner of the A Group was GM Rinat Jumabayev (Kazakhstan) with 8.5/10; Michael Kleinman and Mike Ivanov both scored 6.0 points, with Kleinman's result being sufficient for his third and final IM norm. James Chan finished with 4.5 points, Kevin Low and Joe Roback had 4.0, and Ethan Low had a performance rating 200 points higher than his actual rating for his 2.5 points.

**Chan, James - Lorenzo de la Riva, Lazaro [B94] Sants op 19th Barcelona (1.43), 18.08.2017**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bc4 h6 8.Be3 g6 9.Qe2 b5 10.Bd5 Nxd5 11.exd5 Bb7 12.0-0 Bg7 13.a4 b4 14.Ne4 0-0 15.c4 bxc3 16.Nxc3 Rc8 17.Rad1 Qa5 18.Kh1 Nf6 19.Qd2 Kh7 20.Nde2 Rfe8 21.f4 e6 22.dxe6 Rxe6 23.f5 Re7 24.fxg6+ fxg6 25.Bg1 Rce8 26.Nf4 Qg5 27.Nfd5 Qxd2 28.Nxf6+ Bxf6 29.Rxd2 Be5 30.Bd4 Kg7 31.Bxe5+ dxe5 32.Kg1 e4 33.Re2 Rd8 34.Rfe1 Rd4 35.Rd1 Red7 36.Rc1 Rc4 37.Kf2 Kf6 38.Ke1 Ke5 39.Re3 Rb4 40.Rg3 g5 41.Nd1 [Illegible.] 0-1

**Blomqvist, Erik - Kleinman, Michael [B10] Sants op 19th Barcelona (3.11), 20.08.2017**

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Bd3 e6 7.e5 c5 8.g4 Bg6 9.Bxg6 hxg6 10.Ne2 cxd4 11.Nexd4 Nc6 12.c3 Nge7 13.Kf1 Qc7 14.Kg2 Rc8 15.Be3 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Nc6 17.Qe2 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Be7 19.Qe3 Qb6 20.Rab1 Rc2 21.Qd3 Qc7 22.Qe3 Qb6 23.a4 Kd7 24.b3 Rhc8 25.Qf4 Qb4 26.h4 Re2 27.Qxf7 Rf8 28.Qxg6 Rxf2+ 29.Kxf2 Qd2+ 0-1

**Delchev, Aleksander - Low, Ethan [A17] Sants op 19th Barcelona (3.64), 20.08.2017**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.a3 Ba5 6.g3 0-0 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.0-0 d5 9.Na4 Nd4 10.Nxd4 cxd4 11.b4 Bc7 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Bb2 Be5 14.f4 Bf6 15.Nc5 g6 16.Rac1 Rb8 17.Qd3 Ne7 18.Nb3



Nf5 19.Na5 a6 20.Rfe1 Bg7 21.Qc4 Re8 22.Qc7 Qxc7 23.Rxc7 Re7 24.Rxe7 Nxe7 25.Rc1 b6  
 26.Nb3 Nf5 27.Be4 a5 28.Bxf5 exf5 29.Nxd4 Bb7 30.Rc7 Ba6 31.Kf2 Rd8 32.e3 axb4 33.axb4 Bd3  
 34.Ne6 fxe6 35.Rxg7+ Kf8 36.Rxh7 1–0



As a result of their European tour Ethan and Kevin have both seen increases in their FIDE ratings (helped by the K factor=40 for those U18 and U2300); Ethan has gained fifty points and Kevin over two hundred, this with Sants yet to be rated.

(photo by [Pau Pascual Duran](#))

## BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

### Opponent - Harper, Bruce [A41] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

Sometimes everything works out just the way you want it to. Always with some help from the opponent, of course, but still...

**1.d4** [0:03:00] **1...g6** [0:03:00] **2.Nf3** [0:02:59] **2...Bg7** [0:02:59] **3.g3** [0:02:59] **3...d6** [0:02:58]  
**4.Bg2** [0:02:59] **4...Nc6** [0:02:57] **5.0–0** [0:02:59] **5...Bd7** [0:02:56] **6.c4** [0:02:58] **6...Qc8** [0:02:55]



A familiar position to regular readers. **7.d5** [0:02:56] A logical continuation, but from the strategic point of view Black doesn't mind White's space grab, because the h1–a8 diagonal of White's g2–bishop is blocked, while the corresponding a1–h8 diagonal of Black's g7–bishop is opened. **7...Ne5** [0:02:53] **8.Nxe5** [0:02:55] **8...Bxe5** [0:02:53] **9.Nc3** [0:02:55] **9...Bh3** [0:02:51]



Another standard position. White now goes astray. **10.Qc2?!** [0:02:53] **10...h5** [0:02:48] **11.Qa4+** [0:02:46] A clear loss of tempo, but all that means is that Black is now playing White, since the same position can arise with colours reversed. **11...Kf8!** [0:02:46] An important move and, I suspect, often a surprise to the opponent, although it shouldn't be. Here is Black's logic. He has advanced his h-pawn and intends to open the h-file, so his h8-rook is well-placed and it is unlikely Black will castle. Black therefore doesn't mind moving his king, especially since he doesn't have a good way to block White's check. In addition, White's queen has been distracted from the kingside, where Black intends to attack. **12.f4?** [0:02:42]



It is hard to know whether this is a bad attacking move (White has no attack) or a bad defensive move (it weakens White's defences, rather than strengthening them). Maybe 12.f4? could be termed an "all-purpose move"? **12...Bd4+** [0:02:37] It might be better to take White's c3-knight right away, but weakening the light squares by inducing 12.e3 seemed like a good idea at the time. **13.e3** [0:02:40] **13...Bxc3** [0:02:36] **14.bxc3** [0:02:40] **14...Bxg2** [0:02:33] **15.Kxg2** [0:02:38] **15...h4** [0:02:32]



The kind of position I like most – Black has a structural advance and a better minor piece, but also an attack. If Plan A doesn't work, there is always Plan B... **16.f5?!** [0:02:37] A panicky reaction, but it was already difficult to defend. **16...gxf5** [0:02:27] Now Black has an extra pawn as well. Plan C. **17.c5** [0:02:36] Let's take a moment for a positional observation: this kind of advance may get rid of a weak pawn (here White's c4-pawn), but it doesn't get rid of the weak squares, so White still has problems on the c-file - as will be demonstrated dramatically in a few more moves. **17...Nf6** [0:02:23] Development is always a good idea. **18.c4** [0:02:33] **18...Ne4** [0:02:19] **19.Bb2** [0:02:29] **19...Rh7** [0:02:15] 19...Rg8 wasn't bad either, and the engine of course recommends the materialist

19...Nxc5. But Black has a breakthrough in mind, which White considerately allows. **20.cxd6** [0:02:03] **20...cxd6** [0:02:13] **21.Rac1?** [0:02:01] This attacking move, which threatens nothing, is White's final mistake. White either forgot he had a king or forgot that it could get mated. **21...hgx3** [0:02:06] **22.hxg3** [0:02:00]



**22...f4!** [0:02:05] For once the engine approves!  
**23.Rh1** [0:01:53] **23...f3+** [0:01:58] 23...Qg4 obviously mates in six moves, but 23...f3+ is prettier and more ironic. **24.Kxf3** [0:01:44] 24.Kg1 Rxh1+ 25.Kxh1 Qh3+ 26.Kg1 Qg2 is mate. **24...Qf5+** [0:01:55] **25.Ke2** [0:01:39] **25...Qf2+** [0:01:25] **26.Kd3** [0:01:38] **26...Nc5+** [0:01:24]



White resigns. The queen is lost with check, then the bishop (27.Kc3 Nxa4+), because 27.Kd4 Qf6 mate is just too beautiful to allow. I mean, then next thing you know the game would be published...  
**0-1**

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## MORPHY NUMBERS: A B.C. PERSPECTIVE

"Six degrees of separation" is the popular name of a theory which proposes that everyone on the earth is connected with everyone else through a series of at most five intermediate acquaintances. First suggested in 1929 by the Hungarian writer Frigyes Karinthy, the theory came into prominence with the postal experiments of psychologist Stanley Milgram ("the small-world problem") in the late 1960s. The phrase "six degrees of separation" was popularized through the play and film of the same name by John Guare in the early 1990s; this in turn led to the trivia game *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon*, in which players have to demonstrate a link between a given actor and Kevin Bacon through the least number of shared film appearances. For example, Elvis Presley appeared in



*Change of Habit* (1969) with Edward Asner, and Asner was in *JFK* (1991) with Kevin Bacon. Therefore Asner and Presley would have Bacon numbers of 1 and 2 respectively. Anyone appearing with Presley in another film would have a Bacon number of 3, assuming there wasn't a shorter link. In similar fashion, concert pianists are fond of pointing out their pedagogical lineage (if they have a worthwhile one), e.g., current pianist Craig Liebtrauten studied with Gyorgy Sebok, who studied with Béla Bartók, who studied with István Thomán, who studied with Franz Liszt, who studied with Karl Czerny, who studied with Ludwig van Beethoven.

Well, as you may have guessed by now, the six degrees of separation theory has recently been applied to chess. Historian Taylor Kingston, on a break from his more profound researches, has wrote "Your Morphy Number Is Up" some twelve years ago (available in the archives at [Chesssafe.com](http://Chesssafe.com), although now behind a paywall). Taking the legendary American player Paul Morphy as the centre of the chessic universe, Kingston links other players to Morphy through games contested between the intermediaries. He uses a rather liberal interpretation of the term 'games' (including simultaneous displays, offhand games, consultation games, etc.) so as to include as many 'average' players as possible. Starting from Morphy, Kingston gives the prominent members of each Morphy number group (those who personally played Morphy have a Morphy number of 1, those who played a MN1 are MN2, and so on). His own MN is 5, as follows: "in 1965 I played in a simultaneous exhibition against GM Arthur Bisguier. At New York 1948- 49 Bisguier played former world champion Max Euwe, who at Piestyan 1922 played German master Siegbert Tarrasch, who at Frankfurt 1887 played Louis Paulsen, who at New York 1857 played Morphy."

Here are a few of Kingston's representative members:

**MN0:** Paul Morphy (1837-1884)

**MN1:** Adolf Anderssen (1818-1879), Rev. John Owen (1827-1901), Henry Bird (1830-1908), Louis Paulsen (1833-1891)

**MN2:** Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900), Joseph Blackburne (1841-1924), Amos Burn (1848-1925), Mikhail Chigorin (1850-1908), Isidor Gunsberg (1854-1930), Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941), Geza Maróczy (1870-1951), Harry Pillsbury (1872-1906)

**MN3:** Frank Marshall (1877-1944), Edward Lasker (1885-1981), Efim Bogolyubov (1889-1952), Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946), Fedor Bohatirchuk (1892-1984), Friedrich Sämisch (1896-1975), Max Euwe (1901-1981), George Koltanowski (1903- 2000), Herman Steiner (1905-1955), Sammy Reshevsky (1911-1992), Mikhail Botvinnik (1911-1993), Arnold Denker (1914-2005), Paul Keres (1916-1975)

**MN4:** Svetozar Gligoric (1923), Abe Yanofsky (1925-2000), Pal Benko (1928), Arthur Bisguier (1929), Boris Spassky (1937), Yasser Seirawan (1960)

The number of players increases exponentially with each new generation, therefore I have only given those individuals who likely have an influence on B.C. Morphy numbers; only two Canadians appear - Yanofsky, who is in Kingston's original list, and Bohatirchuk, who qualifies as a MN3 via playing Emanuel Lasker (MN2). So how do B.C. players measure up in terms of Morphy numbers? An obvious start is those who have played any of the above. This would include the following:

### **MN3:**

[Thomas Piper](#) (1857-1938) played Blackburne and Gunsberg

[Herbert Burrell](#) (1870-1956) played Blackburne

[Dave Creemer](#) (1902-1953) played Em. Lasker and Maróczy

### **MN4:**

Jack Taylor (1907-1974) played Koltanowski

Elod Macskasy (1919-1990) played Keres

Miervaldis Jursevskis (1921) played Bohatirchuk, Bogolyubov, Sämisch ...

Nathan Divinsky (1925) played Bohatirchuk

Duncan Suttles (1945) played Reshevsky, Botvinnik, Keres ...

Bob Zuk (1947) played Keres

Peter Biyiasas (1950) played Keres

Jonathan Berry (1953) played Keres

Bruce Harper (1954) played Keres

### **MN5:**

Gary Basanta (1968) played Bisguier

Jack Yoos (1969) played Tukmakov, who played Reshevsky

Of course, this is based purely upon printed results - there may be quicker links which I am not aware of. In the realm of conjecture one can speculate about the many early immigrants to B.C., of whom we know next to nothing about their opponents. For example, Thomas Piper is officially MN3, but likely he is MN2 - it seems probable that he would have played the likes of Owen or Bird before leaving England in the mid-1880s. The same could be said of [Bertram Yates](#) (1868-1953), [Walter de Havilland](#) (1872-1968), or [John Ewing](#) (1889-1952) - we simply do not know who they might have played in offhand or simultaneous games. Continuing such speculation, it is possible Macskasy played offhand games with Maróczy (they knew each other according to Nathan Divinsky), giving Macskasy a MN of 3. Or Jack Taylor might have played offhand games with Thomas Piper when they met in Victoria in 1929, thus possibly lowering Taylor's MN to 3.

Another source of potential links is through simultaneous displays, although the possibility of tracing such links is very slight - we usually are not given a complete list of participants in a simul. Important Canadian simuls were given by Steinitz, Blackburne, Em. Lasker, Maróczy, and Pillsbury (all MN2), while Henry Bird (MN1) visited Montreal in the 1877 and 1889. In B.C. simuls were given by Marshall, Euwe, Koltanowski, Steiner, Reshevsky, and Keres (all MN3), also by Yanofsky, Bisguier, and Spassky (all MN4) - this list does not include simuls by the local players mentioned above.

My own MN is 5, through at least two different routes:

Wright - Jursevskis - Bogolyubov - Tarrasch - Paulsen - Morphy, and

Wright - Berry - Keres - Maróczy - Owen (or Bird) - Morphy

So what's your Morphy number? It might not help you win your next tournament, but a small thrill can result from the knowledge that you are linked with the likes of Tarrasch and Emanuel Lasker ...



[Postscript: thirty years ago in Ontario there was a rather bizarre character by the name of William Klarner, a.k.a. Billy Oxygen. He managed to beat Kevin Spraggett in one of Peter Stockhausen's Belleville tournaments, and thereafter was fond of making the following assertion: "I beat Spraggett, and Spraggett beat Ivanov, and Ivanov beat Karpov, so I'm better than Karpov!"]

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Langley Open**

September 2-4, Langley

[Details](#)

### **September Active**

September 23, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **New West Open**

October 7-9, New Westminster

[Details](#)

### **October Active**

October 21, Columbia College

[Details](#)

### **Jack Taylor Memorial**

November 17-19, Victoria

[Details](#)

### **November Active**

November 18, Columbia College

[Details](#)