

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #353

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); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

BC Blitz Championship (January 7)



The BC Active Championship was supposed to take place on January 6-7, but it only attracted eleven entrants (due to the location or timing we do not know) so will be rescheduled for a later date. However, the two adjunct events scheduled for the same weekend went ahead as planned. Provincial speed chess championships have been held occasionally in the past but not any sort of consistent basis. This edition drew twenty-two players to the new offices of the Vancouver Chess School at Jericho Shopping Centre; there were newcomers (Sudharaka Palamakumbura, formerly of Newfoundland) and oldcomers (Scott Morgan, the 1978 BC Junior Champion) and returnees to local competition (Max Gedajlovic). The participants included seven players rated over 2000, but it was the two FMs, Gedajlovic and BC co-champion Tanraj Sohal, who dominated the field. Max beat Tanraj in their individual game and came first with a magisterial perfect score, while Tanraj had to be content with second on 6.0/7, a point and a half ahead of the third-place finishers. Two veterans tied for the U2000 prizes, Paul Burke and Len Molden, while Tristan Taylor, Brian Yang, and Ethan Song split the U1650 prizes. And receiving U1000 and U800 medals respectively were juniors Alex Zou and Winston Huang. [Standings](#)

Junior Active Championship (January 7)

The other adjunct event was a Junior Active Championship, restricted to juniors whose rating was not high enough to enter the (abandoned) BC Active. The five-round, single-day event had twenty-three participants who competed for trophies by class and medals for those who scored 3.0 points or above. Agata Seyfi was the overall and U1300 trophy winner with 4.5/5, while Alex Zou, Justin Gao, and Walter Zhang were awarded the U1000, U800, and U600 trophies respectively; Alex Yu, Benjamin Cooknagy, Gillian Mok, Rohan Wessels, Alexander Jin, Borna Amjadi, David Li, and Simba Yang received medals. [Standings](#)

Canadian Women's Championship (December 26-31)

As we noted when discussing last June's Canadian Closed (see [Bulletin #340](#)), some of our national championships have had difficulties in locating willing organizers. In 2018 there will be a women's world championship, which in every other year is held as a sixty-four player knockout event (similar to the world cup, except the latter qualifies players to a candidates tournament rather than deciding the actual champion). A Canadian representative to this event needed to be determined; into the breach stepped the FQE (again) to hold a Canadian women's zonal championship. Held in Montreal during the Christmas holidays, the tournament coincided with a bout of exceptionally cold weather. This resulted in a burst water main near the site, a change in schedule and the transference of the tournament to a new location.



The zonal was held as a ten-player round robin which this time around included provincial representation. Carrying the BC standard was Sherry Tian, who acquitted herself well despite the difficult circumstances; her minus one score (4.0/9) will provide good experience for the future. The favourite and defending champion was Qiyu Zhou, the highest rated and as of last year Canadian's first and only woman grandmaster, but a loss and a draw in rounds seven and eight allowed Mailli-Jade Ouellet to surpass her by a half-point at the finishing post with 7.0 points. Also tied for second was Agnieszka Matras-Clement from Alberta. [Chess-results standings](#) [CFC crosstable](#)

Tian, Shi Yuan – Zhou, Qiyu [E12] CAN wom ch Montreal (2.4), 27.12.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Bg5 Bb7 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 0–0 7.Nbd2 d5 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.0–0 h6 10.Bh4 Rc8 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nh5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Rfe1 Nf4 15.Bf1 Nf6 16.Ned2 Qd8 17.g3 N4h5

18.Rad1 c5 19.dxc5 bxc5 20.Bg2 Qc7 21.Nb1 Rfd8 22.Nc3 a6 23.b3 g6 24.Qc1 Kh7 25.Qe3 Ng7 26.Qe5 Rxd1 27.Rxd1 Bxf3 28.Qxc7 Rxc7 29.Bxf3 Nf5 30.Ne2 Kg7 31.h3 h5 32.Kf1 Nd7 33.Be4 Kf6 34.Bxf5 Kxf5 35.Nc3 Ne5 36.Ke2 Nc6 37.Ke3 Nd4 38.Rd2 g5 39.Ne4 e5 40.f3 Kg6 41.f4 Nf5+ 42.Kf3 Nd4+ 43.Ke3 exf4+ 44.gxf4 Nf5+ 45.Kf3 Nd4+ 46.Ke3 Nf5+ 47.Kf3 Nd4+ 48.Ke3 Nf5+ ½–½



Round 8: Khoudgarian - Tian

Khoudgarian, Natalia – Tian, Shi Yuan [B18] CAN wom ch Montreal (8.1), 30.12.2017

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.h5 Bh7 8.f4 e6 9.Nf3 Nf6 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 Bd6 12.Bd2 Nbd7 13.0–0–0 Qc7 14.Ne5 c5 15.Nxd7 Nxd7 16.d5 0–0 17.Ne2 exd5 18.Qxd5 Nf6 19.Qf3 Rac8 20.g4 Qc6 21.Qxc6 Rxc6 22.g5 hxg5 23.fxg5 Ne4 24.Be3 Bb8 25.h6 gxh6 26.gxh6 Kh7 27.Rd7 Rc7 28.Rhd1 Rxd7 29.Rxd7 b6 30.Nf4 Ng5 31.Nd5 Kg6 32.a4 f6 33.h7 Rh8 34.Ne7+ Kxh7 35.Nc6+ Kg6 36.Nxb8 Rxb8 37.Rxa7 Ne6 38.Re7 Kf5 ½–½

Tian, Shi Yuan – Wang, Jiaying [A25] CAN wom ch Montreal (9.5), 31.12.2017

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.e3 0–0 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0–0 e5 9.d5 Ne7 10.b3 Bd7 11.Bb2 g5 12.f4 gxf4 13.gxf4 e4 14.Nd4 Ng6 15.h3 Kh8 16.Kh2 Rg8 17.Rg1 Ng4+ 18.hxg4 Qh4+ 19.Bh3 fxg4 20.Rg3 gxh3 21.Nce2 Ne5 22.fxe5 Bxe5 23.Qe1 Rxg3 24.Nxg3 Rf8 25.Ne6 Bxb2 26.Nxf8 Bxa1 27.Qxa1+ Kg8 28.Nxd7 Kf7 29.Qf1+ 1–0

North American Open (December 26-30)

Now in its 28th edition, the North American Open was held at Bally's Casino Resort in Las Vegas immediately after Christmas. As usual there were a number of participants from this province, they included Severo Caluza, Marionito Jose, Dezheng Kong, Ryan Leong, James Li, Kevin Li, Gillian Mok, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, Daniel Salcedo, Brian Yang, and Raymond Zhang. There were two prizewinners from BC: Brian Yang tied for second in the U1500 with 6.0/7, netting \$1,875, and Dezhong Kong shared the U2300 prizes in the blitz competition, worth \$165. The overall Open winners were GMs Robert Hess, Samuel Sevian, Ruifeng Li, and Arun Prasad Subramanian and IM Dionisio Aldama, with Hess gaining a bonus \$200 for being first on tiebreaks. [Tournament website](#)

A RESPONSE by Bruce Harper

I write in response to the letter in [BCCF Bulletin 351](#), which suggests that a sinister new development is starting to infect chess in British Columbia (the medical comparison is from the authors of the letter, not me) – “Gameplay Distractions” and to the response to the letter in [BCCF Bulletin 352](#).

The original letter obliquely refers to an incident (or series of incidents) in the recent Jack Taylor Memorial event. I say “obliquely” because the letter is completely devoid of any detail, presumably so the reader’s imagination might be free to fill in the details. This Kafkaesque approach was more than unhelpful and, speaking for myself, made me sympathetic to the unnamed opponent accused of unnamed crimes.

I inferred (and stand to be corrected) that the opponent in question was a junior and behaved like an unruly child. Having been at the receiving end of such behaviour (and probably at the giving end in earlier days, for all I know), I would commiserate with Mr. Tate except for one thing – it is illegal to distract your opponent and, if and when that happens, you should go to the Tournament Director and report the illegality. That apparently didn’t happen in this case. When there is a mechanism available to redress a situation, and instead the “victim” prefers to complain afterwards, you can forget about having me feel sorry for you.

I appreciate that not all Tournament Directors and Arbiters are competent (I am not referring to Roger Patterson, who was directing the Jack Taylor Memorial, but to other incidents, such as the failure on the part of the officials at the recent Canadian Championship, not to mention a number of weird things in international events), but a player who does not complain of improper behaviour, whatever it was supposed to be, literally has nothing to complain about. In the response letter, it was suggested that the opponent got up from the board too often. Really? I would have been forfeited almost every game if that was prohibited. With no other details provided or hinted at, there’s not much more I can say on that.

As for Mr. Tate’s response (walking out of the tournament hall in a lost position), Mr. Patterson seems to feel this is a capital offence. It is not – it is a classic way to handle such a situation, as shown by the finish of Steinitz-Bardeleben, Hastings 1895. Bardeleben was not just some bozo, either – he was leading the tournament when he fell victim to the brilliancy that (unjustly) gave him immortality. [[Contemporary accounts](#) – ed.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiNGbMRyU7A>

Shed a tear for Bill Buckner while you’re at it, as his 22 years as a major leaguer came to be defined by a single World Series error.

The prohibition against leaving the playing hall during a game, of course, is aimed at preventing cheating using chess engines (you don’t want players going to their rooms to run the position through Alpha Zero). It’s pretty clear that when someone leaves the tournament site and doesn’t return, they aren’t worried about being forfeited. What makes it rude is the opponent has to wait for the time forfeit, but whether that is a major inconvenience or not depends on the circumstances.

All in all, my reactions to this affair are:

1. If someone is acting improperly, tell the TD. That’s what they’re there for. Don’t just whine about it afterwards.
2. Nothing has changed since I played (distractions – including cheating – are nothing new).
3. From the sound of it, the two players probably deserved one another.

BRUCE HARPER ANNOTATES

Opponent – Harper, Bruce [B06] ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club

This game is fun because both players ignore what the other is doing (up to a point), and it turns out I was right. And there's a rarely-seen tactic at the end that is worth remembering.

1.e4 [0:03:00] 1...g6 [0:03:00] 2.d4 [0:02:59] 2...Bg7 [0:02:59] 3.Nc3 [0:02:58] 3...d6 [0:02:59] 4.Nf3 [0:02:56] 4...a6 [0:02:58] 5.Bc4 [0:02:55] 5...b5 [0:02:57] 6.Bb3 [0:02:40] 6...e6 [0:02:56]



To block the a2–g8 diagonal. Of course White's lead in development counts for something. 7.0–0 [0:02:37] 7...Bb7 [0:02:53] 8.Re1 [0:02:35] 8...Ne7 [0:02:52]



9.e5!? [0:01:57] Closing the position is almost a matter of taste. It is probably better to just keep developing, so Black doesn't know whether White will play e4–e5 or d4–d5, or maybe neither. 9...d5!? [0:02:44] Also a matter of taste. Objectively Black is equal after 10...dxe5 or 10...Nd7. 10.Ne2 [0:01:54] White immediately prepares to activate his b3–bishop, but 10.a4!? was more active. 10...Nd7 [0:02:42] 11.c3 [0:01:53] 11...c5 [0:02:40] 12.h4 [0:01:43] 12...h6 [0:02:38] 13.Ng3 [0:01:38] 13...Qb6 [0:02:29] 14.Be3 [0:01:36]



14...c4!? [0:02:27] It was probably better to exchange on e4, but sometimes I'm in the mood to play a blocked position, and for some reason I didn't think White would handle it well. **15.Bc2** [0:01:34] **15...a5** [0:02:26] **16.Qd2** [0:01:33] **16...b4** [0:02:24] **17.h5** [0:01:23] **17...g5** [0:02:22] This keeps the kingside closed for the moment, but gives White a way to open lines later. The key question is "what will be happening by the time 'later' rolls around?" **18.Nh2** [0:01:23] **18...Nc6** [0:02:14] **19.Kh1** [0:01:15] **19...a4** [0:02:12]



20.a3 [0:01:14] White instinctively doesn't want to allow 20...a3, attacking the base of his pawn chain, but White's more active position would allow him to answer with 21.Rab1!?, and the opening of lines on the queenside favours White. **20...bxc3** [0:02:09] **21.bxc3** [0:01:14] **21...Na5!?** [0:02:08]



Shooting the rapids. I realized that Black's a4-pawn was hanging, and that White should take it, but I hoped that White would overlook it. **22.Rab1?** [0:01:12] **22...Nb3** [0:02:06] **23.Qe2** [0:01:10] **23...Bf8** [0:02:04]



Now Black has at least one good piece, and a target (of sorts) on the queenside. **24.f4?** [0:01:07] Both sides of the board matter! White should simply defend his a3-pawn with 24.Bc1! **24...gxf4** [0:02:00] **25.Bxf4** [0:01:07] **25...Bxa3** [0:01:58] Now Black has a plan - to push his passed a-pawn. **26.Rf1** [0:01:06] **26...Be7** [0:01:55] **27.Qe3** [0:01:04] **27...a3** [0:01:49] **28.Ng4** [0:00:58] **28...a2** [0:01:46] **29.Ra1** [0:00:57] **29...Nxa1** [0:01:44] **30.Rxa1** [0:00:55] **30...Qb2** [0:01:43]



White's position is collapsing. It's interesting that Black's rooks are perfectly placed on their original squares. The a8-rook supports Black's passed a-pawn, while the h8-rook defends White's only target (Black's h6-pawn), and is also lined up against White's h1-king should Black's h6-pawn fall. Do Black's rooks therefore count as being "developed"? **31.Qc1** [0:00:52] **31...Qxc3** [0:01:33] Exchanging queens was perfectly good, but I couldn't resist trying to destroy White's entire central pawn chain. **32.Nxh6?!** [0:00:48] **32...Rxxh6** [0:01:29] **33.Bxxh6** [0:00:46] **33...Qxg3** [0:01:28] **34.Bf4** [0:00:43] **34...Qh4+** [0:01:19] **35.Kg1** [0:00:42]



35...f6 [0:01:00] Positional, in a sick way. 25...Ba3 was pretty strong too. **36.h6** [0:00:39] **36...fxe5** [0:00:57] **37.dxe5** [0:00:39] **37...Bc5+** [0:00:51] **38.Be3** [0:00:38]



38...Qxh6 [0:00:44] A cross-pin! White's e3-bishop can't take Black's h6-queen, and after 39.Bxc5 Qxc1+ 40.Rxc1 a1=Q, White will run out of pieces. White resigns. **0-1**

2017 IN REVIEW

The end/beginning of the year is often a time for reflection and review of the events that occurred in the previous twelve months. With this in mind, here is a list of B.C. tournament winners for 2016, along with a few other highlights:

BC-WA "A" 12.5-12.5; BC-WA "B" 12.0-13.0

Vancouver-Victoria 12.0-13.0

Victoria Open – Frank O'Brien, Ross Richardson

BC Active Championship – Tanraj Sohal

BC Open – Alfred Pechisker, Tanraj Sohal

Nanaimo Spring Open – Jason Williamson, Sherry Tian

Vancouver Rapid Chess League – Chigorin Chess Club

Grand Pacific Open – Tanraj Sohal, Harry Moore

Intermat – won by BC

B.C. School Team Championship – St. George's Junior School

Keres Memorial – Tanraj Sohal

BC Senior Championship – Brian McLaren, Valeria Gansvind

World Open, U1400 Section – Daniel Wang

Canadian Open, U1400 Section – Kate Jiang

Semiahmoo Open – Raymond Kaufman

Bowser Builders Supply – John Doknjas, Joshua Doknjas

Langley Open – John Doknjas

BC Championship – Grigorii Morozov, Tanraj Sohal

New West Open – Raymond Kaufman

LakeCity Open – Kai Richardson

B.C. Junior – Andrew Hemstapat, Joshua Doknjas

Jack Taylor Memorial – Jason Kenney

Nanaimo Winter Open – Bennett Schnabel, Joe Roback

Active Grand Prix – Tanraj Sohal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vancouver Rapid Chess League

Monthly until May 2018, Jericho Shopping Centre

[Details](#)

Chess2Inspire Junior Championship

January 26-28, 2018, Richmond

[Details](#)

BC Open

February 10-12, 2018, Richmond

[Details](#)

Nanaimo Spring Open

March 3-4, Nanaimo

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

March 30 – April 2, Victoria

[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

May 19-21, Richmond

[Details](#)