# **BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #382**

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 (<u>swright2@telus.net</u>); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

#### HERE AND THERE

#### World Cadet Chess Chamionships (August 21 – September 1)



This year the World Cadet, the U8, U10, U12 age groups of the old WYCC, was held in Weifang, China, a popular destination considering the ethnic origin of many of our players. Of the almost six hundred players competing twenty-two were Canadian, including Veronica Guo, Winston Huang, Eric Jiang, Kate Jiang, William Jiang, Erwin Mok, Gillian Mok, Dorsa Shaeri, Ethan Song, and Dennis Wang from BC. Any world competition is tough and lower age group events especially so, given that many participants do not have FIDE ratings or are woefully underrated. This year no Canadian was able to place in the top ten in any section, nor the top twenty for that matter. The best Canadian scores were achieved by Daniel Xu (U12, 7.0/9), Johnathan Han (U10), who was our best contender for a top-ten finish but lost his last two games to end with 6.5 points, and Kate Jiang (U12 girls), also 6.5 points. The other two BC players with a plus score were William Jiang (U8, 6.0) and Veronica Guo (U12 girls, 6.0). Tournament website standings photos

### Vienna Open (August 17-24)



After the Riga Technical University Open (see last issue) four of the BC participants, James Chan, Curtis Lister, Ethan Low, and Kevin Low, headed to a quite different European capital – Vienna. Now in its twenty-first year, the International Vienna Chess Open was held in the city hall, a nineteenth century Neo-Gothic structure in the inner city. Over a thousand players participated in the four sections, including nineteen grandmasters in the A Group where Chan, Lister, and Kevin Low competed. The overall winner was Italian GM Alessio Valsecchi, whose 7.5/9 was a half point ahead of the ten(!) players tied for second; the best Canadian was James Chan on 4.5 points which resulted in a modest rating gain. The B Group included Ethan Low and two more BC players, Doug Sly and Ethan Su; the latter's 5.0/9 resulted in a performance rating of 1856, somewhat above his actual FIDE rating of 1490. Tournament website Standings

#### Low, Kevin – Palac, Mladen [B90] Vienna op 2019 Group A (1.5), 17.08.2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 Qb6 7.Nb3 e6 8.Bd3 Be7 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.a4 b6 11.Be3 Nc6 12.g4 Bb7 13.0–0–0 Nb4 14.g5 Nd7 15.Kb1 0–0 16.h4 Nc5 17.Nxc5 bxc5 18.h5 d5 19.exd5 exd5 20.Bf4 Bd6 21.Bxd6 Qxd6 22.Rdg1 Rae8 23.Qd2 Nxd3 24.Qxd3 d4 25.Ne4 Bxe4 26.fxe4 Qe6 27.Re1 Rb8 28.e5 Rb4 29.b3 Rfb8 30.Kc1 c4 31.Qh3 Qe7 32.Qf5 cxb3 33.e6 b2+ 34.Kd2 b1Q 35.h6 fxe6 36.Rxe6 Qf7 0–1

# NAYCC (August 16-20)

The North American Youth Chess Championships are a continental equivalent of the CYCC, championships by two-year age groups further divided into open and girls sections but restricted to players from North American, in this case Canada, the United States, Mexico, and the Bahamas. The tournament alternates between host countries and this year it was Canada's turn; organized by the Chess'n Math Association, some four hundred under the age of eighteen descended on

Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario for the nine-round event. In nearly all sections the majority were Canadian (the exceptions were the U16 and U18 girls), including from this province Daniel Du, Joshua Doknjas, Neil Doknjas, Matthew He, Winston Huang, Zhiqi Ryan Huang, Ryan Leong, Jacky Luan, Lucian Wu, Brian Yang, Henry Yang, Ryan Yang, and Joyce Zhang. Presumably this list would have been longer except for the unfortunate scheduling of the WCCC, whose beginning in China immediately followed the NAYCC. Only one player was brave enough to play in both, Winston Huang, and he had to take byes for the first two rounds of the WCCC.



(photos by Victoria Doknjas)

One of the main attractions of these continental events is the awarding of direct titles and norms to the top three finishers in each section; this results in fierce competition, particularly in the higher sections where IM and FM titles are at stake. Three of our players were in contention; Ryan Yang (U10) and Neil Doknjas (U14) both started with 4.5/5 but were unable to maintain this pace – both finished with 6.0/9 and placed seventh and ninth respectively after the application of tiebreaks. The big BC success story was Joshua Doknjas in the U18 Section. Going into the last round six players were tied for first with 6.0 points, among them Joshua. He won his round nine game for an undefeated 7.0/9; this left him in a tie for first with two others and in third place on tiebreak with an automatic FM title and IM norm – congratulations! <u>Standings</u> (scroll to the bottom of each section page) photos (scroll down)

# Zhang, Yuancheng – Doknjas, Joshua [A01] NAYCC U18 Kingston (9), 20.08.2019

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.c4 Nf6 4.e3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.a3 Bd6 7.Qc2 0–0 8.Nf3 Qe7 9.d3 f5 10.Nbd2 a5 11.Be2 Bd7 12.0–0 Kh8 13.Rfd1 Nb6 14.Bf1 Rae8 15.g3 Be6 16.Bg2 Bd5 17.Nc4 Qf7 18.Rac1 h6 19.Qc3 Re7 20.Ne1 Bxg2 21.Nxg2 Nd7 22.Nxd6 cxd6 23.b4 axb4 24.axb4 Nf6 25.b5 Nd8 26.Ba3 Rd7 27.Rd2 Ne6 28.Qb3 Re8 29.Rdc2 d5 30.Nh4 f4 31.Rc8 Rxc8 32.Rxc8+ Kh7 33.exf4 exf4 34.b6 Ng5 35.Qa4 d4 36.Qa8 Ng8 37.Qa5 Rd5 38.Qe1 Rb5 39.Rc7 Qd5 40.Qe8 Rxb6 41.Qc8 Re6 42.f3 Qa5 43.Rxg7+ Kxg7 44.Qd7+ Ne7 45.Qxd4+ Kg8 0–1



#### Wang, Andy Zixin – Yang, Ryan [C68] NAYCC U10 Kingston (3), 17.08.2019

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nc3 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.a3 Nf6 8.d3 Bc5 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Qe7 11.Bg3 Nd7 12.Qe2 Ba7 13.Bh2 Qf6 14.g4 Bg6 15.Bg3 h5 16.0–0–0 h4 17.g5 Qe7 18.Nxh4 Qxg5+ 19.Qd2 Qxd2+ 20.Rxd2 Bh7 21.Nf3 f6 22.Kb1 0–0–0 23.Rhd1 Bg6 24.Nh4 Bh5 25.Rg1 Bf7 26.Nf5 g6 27.Nh4 g5 28.Nf3 Rxh3 29.Rg2 Nf8 30.Rh2 Rxh2 31.Nxh2 Bh5 32.f3 Ne6 33.Ne2 Kd7 34.Rd1 Rh8 35.Ng4 Ke7 36.Rh1 Nf4 37.Nxf4 exf4 38.Be1 Bd4 39.Ba5 b6 40.Bb4+ c5 41.Bd2 Kf7 42.c3 Be5 43.Kc2 Kg7 44.Be1 c6 45.Bf2 Bc7 46.Kb3 Bf7+ 47.c4 Rxh1 48.d4 Rc1 49.dxc5 Bxc4+ 50.Kb4 a5+ 51.Ka4 b5# 0–1

#### Taking risks

A submitted article by Nick Beqo.

### **LANGLEY OPEN** (August 31 – September 2)



This year's Langley Open, the fourteenth since the previous Labour Day Open moved from Victoria to the Mainland in 2006, was in many respects very similar to the 2018 edition but with one important difference – a new record turnout of eighty-two players, up from seventy last year and sixty-two in 2017. This trend in BC chess is, for better or worse, led by the continuing influx of scholastic/junior players has ushered in a new golden age, with numbers not seen since the Fischer boom of the early 1970s: the last BC event on a Labour Day weekend with more entrants was in 1975 with eighty-four players. The latter number could easily have been surpassed had the World Cadet (where a number of BC players were competing) not been scheduled to end on the same weekend.

Held at the Brookswood Senior Centre and organized by the Langley Chess Club (Hugh Long, Brian Davidson, Andrew Hoyer), the Langley Open was the last qualifying event for the BC Closed and also remains the last major tournament in the province in one section. The latter fact combined with the participation of ambitious, underrated juniors provides a fertile ground for upsets and such was the case.

The field included eight players over 2000 but a number of these were roughed up by players in the A and B classes and below; notable upsets were scored by Lyvia Shan, Yawen Zheng, Justin Gao,

Andrew Qiu, Jerald Mamaradlo, Eric Gu, Ethan Su, and Yauheni Basko. Despite this top-ranked Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj managed to prove that ratings are sometimes accurate by winning clear first place with a perfect 6.0/6, the first perfect score in a Labour Day event since Jonathan Berry in 1990. The other top prizes largely went to juniors or those who were juniors not long ago. Tied for second and third were Ivan Petrov and Ashton Taylor with 5.0 points each, while the U2000 prizes were shared by Jungmin Shinn, Yauheni Basko, Etham Su, and Jason Williamson on 4.5/6. Also with 4.5 points was Jerry Wang who took the first U1700 prizes on his own; the second was shared between Jerald Mamaradlo and Richard Ingram. Two unrated players, Mark Parpatt and Tian Yi Cheng, tied for the U1300 prizes, while the biggest upset prize went to Lyvia Shan. And the coveted BC Closed qualification spot went on tiebreak to Neil Doknjas. <u>Standings and</u> <u>games</u>



# Nyamdorj, Davaa-Ochir – Mohammed Qanee, Arpak Worya [C01] Langley op (5.1), 02.09.2019

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5 5.Bd3 Nf6 6.Nge2 0–0 7.0–0 h6 8.Ng3 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.Nce2 Re8 11.Nf4 Nc6 12.c3 Bf8 13.Bc2 g6 14.Qd3 Bg7 15.Bd2 Qd6 16.Be3 Bd7 17.Qd2 Ne7 18.Nd3 h5 19.Ne5 h4 20.Ne2 Bf5 21.Ba4 c6 22.Bf4 Qd8 23.Bg5 Qa5 24.Bb3 Nd7 25.Ng4 h3 26.gxh3 f6 27.Bh6 Bh8 28.Ng3 Qb5 29.Bf4 Bg7 30.Bd6 Bd3 31.Rfd1 Bc4 32.Bc2 Nc8 33.Bf4 Kf7 34.Bh6 Bh8 35.b3 Nd6 36.bxc4 Nxc4 37.Bxg6+ Kxg6 38.Qd3+ Kf7 39.Qh7+ Ke6 40.Nf5 Nd6 41.Re1+ Ne5 42.dxe5 Nxf5 43.exf6+ Kd6 44.Bf4+ Kc5 45.Qxf5 Qa4 46.c4 Rxe1+ 47.Rxe1 Qxc4 48.Rc1 1–0

#### Talosig, Jaylord – Basko, Yauheni [D45] Langley op (5.5), 02.09.2019

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.e3 c6 6.Qc2 Nbd7 7.a3 0–0 8.Bd3 b6 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.0–0 Bb7 11.Qe2 a6 12.Bd2 Ne4 13.Rfc1 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Rc8 15.Ne2 Rxc1+ 16.Rxc1 Bd6 17.Qc2 f5 18.Qa4 b5 19.Qb3 Qe7 20.Nf4 g5 21.Ne2 h5 22.Nd2 Kg7 23.f4 Rg8 24.Nf3 g4 25.Ne5 Nb6 26.Ng3 h4 27.Nf1 h3 28.g3 Nc4 29.Bb1 Nxb2 30.Qxb2 Bxa3 31.Qd2 Bxc1 32.Qxc1 Rc8 33.Qd1 Qa3 34.Nd3 Rc3 35.Nf2 Rc1 36.Qd3 Qb2 0–1

# Doknjas, Neil – Nyamdorj, Davaa-Ochir [B56] Langley op (6.1), 02.09.2019

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3 0–0 9.Qd2 a5 10.Bb5 Na7 11.Bxa7 Rxa7 12.0–0–0 a4 13.Qf2 b6 14.Nxa4 Be6 15.Bc6 Rxa4 16.Bxa4 Qa8 17.Bb5 Qxa2 18.Qxb6 Nxe4 19.h4 Bxb3 20.fxe4 Rc8 21.Bd3 Bd8 22.Qb7 Be6 23.Kd2 Qa5+ 24.c3 Qc5 25.Rdf1 Ba5 26.Qb5 Qc7 27.Rc1 Rb8 28.Qa4 Rxb2+ 29.Rc2 Qxc3+ 30.Kc1 Rxc2+ 31.Bxc2 h6 32.Rd1 Qe3+ 33.Kb1 Qb6+ 34.Kc1 Bc3 35.Qa3 Bd4 36.Ba4 Qa5 37.Rxd4 exd4 38.Kb2 d3 39.Bd1 Qd2+ 0–1



Last round, Doknjas-Nyamdorj (photo by Paul Leblanc)

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### Pal Charles Benko (15 July 1928 – 25 August 2019)

The chess world has lost one of its legendary players at age ninety-one, the Hungarian-American grandmaster Pal Benko. Player and candidate, author, problem and study composer, developer of an eponymous gambit, Benko's life and career are covered in detail elsewhere in literature (notably in the autobiographical *Pal Benko: My Life, Games and Compositions*) and on the internet (tribute at <u>ChessBase.com</u>) so as is usual in such circumstances we shall concentrate on Benko's connections with Canada and BC.

After defecting from Hungary at the 1957 World Student Team Championship in Reykjavík Benko settled in the United States. He was a World Championship Candidate twice, at Bled/Zagreb/ Belgrade in 1959 and Curaçao in 1962, but found living in America necessitated adjusting to Swiss tournaments and having to play for a win with Black.



For the latter he adopted and promoted what became known as the Benko Gambit, 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5, an active system in which Black sacrifices a pawn for strong queenside pressure. In Canada Benko participated in four Canadian Opens, the 1967 centennial tournament in Winnipeg, and the CNE Open in Toronto in 1971. He won the <u>1964</u> Canadian Open in Scarborough, tied for fifth in the <u>1966</u> edition (Kingston, won by Larry Evans), and tied for fourth in <u>1970</u> (St. John's, won by Bent Larsen). His only BC appearance was at the <u>1971</u> Canadian Open where he had a poor result after losing a late game to George Kuprejanov (then World Champion Boris Spassky and Hans Ree were the winners). He redeemed himself immediately thereafter at the CNE Open where he and Robert Byrne tied for first with a perfect score ahead of Spassky and Laszlo Witt who tied for second. In Winnipeg Benko scored plus one in the strongest Canadian event to that point –

Klaus Darga and Bent Larsen tied for first. Benko also met BC players in US events, including Suttles, Biyiasas, and Berry, amongst others.

# Benko, Pal C. – Berry, Jonathan [A58] CAN op 9th Vancouver (9), 01.09.1971

An opening meets its maker ...

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.g3 d6 7.Bg2 g6 8.Bd2 Bg7 9.Bc3 0–0 10.Nh3 Nbd7 11.0–0 Nb6 12.Nf4 Qd7 13.b3 Ra7 14.h4 Rb8 15.Re1 c4 16.Bd4 Rc7 17.Nc3 cxb3 18.axb3 Bc8 19.Qd3 Rcb7 20.b4 Qe8 21.b5 Nbd7 22.Reb1 Ne5 23.Qd1 Bd7 24.b6 Nc4 25.Ra7 Qd8 26.Rxb7 Rxb7 27.Rb4 Ne5 28.Qb3 Qc8 29.Bxe5 dxe5 30.Nd3 e4 31.Nxe4 Nxe4 32.Bxe4 Bf5 33.Bxf5 gxf5 34.Rc4 Qd8 35.Rc6 Bd4 36.Qc4 1–0



Canadian Open 1971: Benko watches Spassky

# Suttles, Duncan – Benko, Pal C. [A00] Hastings (11), 08.01.1974

The Suttles System strikes ...

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.d3 g6 4.Bd2 c6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Qc1 Qb6 7.Nd1



h5 8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.0–0 Nc5 10.b4 Ne6 11.a4 a5 12.bxa5 Qd8 13.Rb1 0–0 14.Qa3 Ng4 15.Re1 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Bxe5 17.e4 dxe4 18.Rxe4 Bc7 19.Qb2 Kh7 20.Ne3 Bxa5 21.Bc1 Bc7 22.Qc3 f5 23.Rxe6 Bxe6 24.Rxb7 Bc8 25.Bb2 Rf6 26.Rxc7 Qxc7 27.Nd5 Qd6 28.Nxf6+ Qxf6 29.Qxf6 exf6 30.Bxc6 Rb8 31.Bb5 Bd7 32.c4 Kg7 33.Kf1 Kf7 34.Ke2 Ke7 35.Kd2 Ra8 36.Kc3 Rxa4 37.Bxa4 Bxa4 38.f4 Bd1 39.d4 Kd6 40.d5 Kc5 41.Ba3+ Kb6 42.Be7 Bf3 43.Kd4 Bd1 44.Bxf6 Ba4 45.Bd8+ Ka6 46.c5 Be8 47.Ke5 Bf7 48.c6 1–0

# Suttles, Duncan – Benko, Pal C. [A00] Venice (6), 11.1974

Benko's revenge:

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.d3 g6 4.Bd2 c5 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Qc1 h5 7.Bg5 d4 8.Nd1 Nc6 9.Nf3 Be6 10.0–0 Qd7 11.Re1 Bh3 12.Bh1 Ng4 13.e3 f6 14.exd4 cxd4 15.Bd2 Rc8 16.c3 Nge5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Re4 f5 19.Rxd4 Nf3+ 20.Bxf3 Bxd4 21.Be3 Bf6 22.Qd2 a6 23.Bg5 0–0 24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.d4 f4 26.Be4 Rcf8 27.f3 fxg3 28.hxg3 Rxf3 29.Bxf3 Rxf3 30.Qg5 Qg4 31.Qd5+ Kh7 32.Ne3 Rxe3 0–1

In later life Benko devoted much of his time to composing chess problems and studies – here is one of them, composed at age fifteen.



White to play and mate in three moves

#### Nicholas (Nick) Peters

It is with shock and sadness that we report the passing of Nicholas Peters. A native of Parksville, Nick participated in both the Chess Challenge and CYCC streams of junior chess and in grade 12 was part of the BC Team at the 2013 Chess Challenge Finals in Ottawa. He won the U1600 Section of the Victoria Open in 2016 but latterly had moved into organizing, assisting Jason Williamson in reviving competitive chess in Nanaimo through a series of recent tournaments (Nick was a student at Vancouver Island University and had been president of the VIU Chess Club). Our condolences to his family and friends.

#### Enns, Edward – Peters, Nick [E00] Victoria op U1600 Victoria (1), 15.01.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 e6 4.a3 h6 5.Bf4 Bd6 6.Bxd6 Qxd6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.f3 0–0 9.Qc2 Re8 10.0–0–0 a6 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.fxe4 Qf4+ 14.Kb1 Qxe4 15.Bd3 Qc6 16.d5 Qxc2+ 17.Bxc2 Nd7 18.d6 cxd6 19.Rxd6 Nf6 20.Nf3 Bd7 21.Re1 Rxe1+ 22.Nxe1 Re8 23.Nf3 Bc6 24.Nh4 Kf8 25.h3 Re1+ 26.Rd1 Rxd1+ 27.Bxd1 g6 28.Nf3 Ke7 29.g4 Kd6 30.a4 Ne4 31.Nd4 Nf2 32.Bb3 Bd5 33.Bc2 Nxh3 34.b4 b6 35.Kb2 Nf2 36.Nf5+ gxf5 37.Bxf5 Be6 0–1



2018 Nanaimo Spring Open: Nick Peters, GM Eric Hansen, Jason Williamson

#### **GONNASON CUP (VICTORIA CHAMPIONSHIP)**

Aaron Gonnason (November 25, 1865 - December 27, 1938) was born in Sweden. His family immigrated to America when he was six, where they mined coal and farmed in Kansas. In 1883 Aaron and his elder brother Benjamin departed for the more lucrative possibilities of the Pacific Northwest lumber industry; after a year in Seattle they settled in Victoria, where they found employment in a mill. In 1890 they joined with Joseph J. Lemon to start their own company, Capital Planing Mills (later Lemon, Gonnason and Co. Ltd.); Aaron rose to become president of the company, a position he held for many years. The company eventually ceased operations in 1958, Aaron and Benjamin having died within five days of each other twenty years earlier.

Aaron Gonnason was a competent club player, but was more important as a benefactor: he donated two trophies that bore his name. The first, given in 1921, was a cup for the Victoria city



championship, our current subject. The second Gonnason Cup was donated in 1923 for a provincial team championship; the trophy was awarded to the winners of a team match between two clubs, and was retained until a successful challenge by another club.

"Arrangements are underway to hold a chess tournament for the amateur championship of Victoria. Entries will close next Wednesday, January 25, and the affair will be held in the Chess Club rooms, Metropolis Hotel, Yates Street, and will be open to all outside players. The entry fee will be \$1.50, which will include the use of the club rooms for the two months during which play will be in progress." [*Victoria Daily Times*, 18 January 1921]

"A. Gonnason, of the Lemon-Gonnason Lumber Company, has presented a handsome cup for competition in the local chess tournament. It will be contested for each year and if won by any

contestant three years in succession ownership passes to the successful player." [*Victoria Daily Times*, 11 February 1921; the latter stipulation was still generally applied in the 1950s]







won by W.J. Barker A. Gonnason, 1922 L. Partington, 1923 W.J. Barker, 1924 L. Partington, 1925 L. Partington, 1926 W.J. Barker, 1927 F. Knowles, 1928 W.J. Barker, 1929 W.J. Barker, 1930

presented to the Victoria Chess Club in memory of J.W. Barker [presumably a typo by the engraver] by his niece Mabel

And what do we know of the winners? William James Barker (1868-1941) was born in Pemberton, Ontario, but came to BC in 1913. A pharmacist by trade, he also won the overall BC Championship in 1923, 1924, 1926, and 1928. Based on the stipulation noted above Barker must have won the city championship again in 1931 and have been awarded the cup outright; it was donated back to

the club by his niece after his death. Lawton Partington (1889-1980) was born in Oldham, England and emigrated to BC in 1911. He taught piano, and was at various times organist and choirmaster at Knox Presbyterian Church and Oak Bay United Church. Partington also won the city championship in 1936, but by then a different trophy was in use. F. Knowles remains, for the moment, a mystery. After lying disused for many years the Gonnason Cup is now presented to the winner of the Victoria Chess Club Championship (Roger Patterson for the past three years).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Washington Women's Championship

September 13-15, Seattle, WA Details

#### Victoria Chess Club Active

September 21, Victoria Details

#### New West Fall Open

October 12-14, New Westminster Details

#### Jack Taylor Memorial

October 25-27, Victoria Details

#### Banff Open

November 9-11, Banff, AB Details