BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #390

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

Lions Chess Club



The recently founded Lion Chess Club in Burnaby held a blitz tournament on February 22 which also inaugurated a new Blitz Grand Prix:

February 22nd, March 21st, April 18th, May 23rd, June 20th, July 18th, August 15th, September 19th, October 17th, November 14th, December 5th.

Time: 2pm-4pm Entry Fee: \$20

Prizes: Based on entries. Top three players earn cash.

Time Control: 3min/2s.

Rules: Touch-move, maximum 20 players.

Location: 5067 Anola Drive, Burnaby, British Columbia V5B 4V7 (Next to CoffeeLicious)

Arbiter: Joe Roback ijroback@gmail.com

Grand Prix Scoring system: The points system - 10–8–6–5–4–3–2 for first seven finishers and 1 point for all players finishing lower.

In case of a tie in points the Grand Prix points are shared evenly by the tied players.

Players can participate in any number of the tournaments during the season till November.

Top eight players who score the most points will qualify for the final tournament on December 5th.

The winner of the final tournament will be announced as Winner of Grand Prix 2020.

https://www.facebook.com/events/482686825945959/

2020 BC Open: many stayed home, even more showed up (Paul Leblanc)



The backdrop for this year's BC Open was the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Although the BC Centre for Disease Control assessed that risk of contacting this flu virus was low and cases in all of Canada were in single digits, some were concerned that a public gathering such as a chess tournament would present some level of risk. The event was heading for another attendance record when, during the week prior to the tournament, over forty withdrawals were received. It was interesting to see, however, that on most days there were more new entries than withdrawals. In the end, one hundred and sixty-one players showed up, making this year's tournament the second largest BC Open in history.

The Premier Section was competing for the Joe Oszvald Cup for the first time. Mr. Oszvald, the winner of the 1975 BC Open and donor of the trophy, had intended to play but had to withdraw a few days beforehand. The Premier Section featured some very entertaining and sharp games. Of thirty games played by the top five players, only five were draws. Going into the last round, Jorge Nunez Asencio held the lead with a 5-0 score, a full point ahead of a group of five players at 4-0. Nunez came to BC two years ago seeking a better life. So far it is working out well for him. He is a professional chess trainer and he runs his own chess school, White Rock Youth Club where he has about forty students. Key to Asencio's success was a win against IM Raymond Kaufman in the penultimate round. However, he succumbed to a fierce attack from Grigorii Morozov in the last round, allowing Morozov as well as Keith MacKinnon and Tanraj Sohal to share a four-way tie for BC Open Champion. For Sohal, it will be the seventh time that his name appears on the Joe Oszvald Cup. Keith MacKinnon will advance to the BC Closed as a result of having the best tie-break score.

The U1900 Section was won handily with 5.5-0.5 by Jason Williamson of Nanaimo. Williamson has been gradually getting back into form after a 16-year break from competitive chess. Veronica Guo was a surprise second-place finisher in the U1900 with 5.0-1.0 and a large increase in her rating. Harleen Singh Jaspal achieved the only perfect score of the tournament, winning the U1500 Section and building on his impressive near-perfect score of 4.5-0.5 and U1600 first place finish at the Victoria Open in January. Luke Shu and Andrew Styffe shared first and second place in the U1000 Section and Brad Chiu won the top unrated prize.

The prize fund was \$3,250. The venue was the Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond which has become a home for the BC Open and Paul Keres Memorial for several years.

International Arbiter Stephen Wright was the TD, assisted by Joe Soliven.



Nunez Asencio, MacKinnon, Sohal, Morozov (photo by Paul Leblanc)

The tournament was organized by Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess, backed up by Roger Patterson. Victoria Chess, formed originally to organize the Grand Pacific Open in 2007, has steadily grown since then to take on the BC Open, Paul Keres Memorial, Victoria Open, BC vs Washington match, the Jack Taylor Memorial, the BC Senior Championship and this year will introduce the BC vs Alberta match to take place in Vernon 3-5 July. This report plus detailed standings and additional photos

Nunez Asencio, Jorge - Kaufman, Raymond [E61] BC op Richmond (5.1), 17.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.h3 0–0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 c5 8.d5 e6 9.Nd2 exd5 10.cxd5 Nbd7 11.e4 Re8 12.Be2 g5 13.Bg3 Ne5 14.0–0 a6 15.a4 Bd7 16.Re1 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Nxb5 Qb6 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Nxd6 Qxb2 21.N2c4 Nxc4 22.Bxc4 Qc3 23.Bb5 Ra2 24.Bxd7 Nxd7 25.Nf5 Rd2 26.Qb1 Rb2 27.Qa1 Ra2 28.Qxc3 Bxc3 29.Rb1 h5 30.Rb7 Ra1+ 31.Kh2 Nf6 32.Nh6+ Kg7 33.Nxf7 Kg6 34.Be5 Nxe4 35.Bxc3 Nxc3 36.d6 Rd1 37.d7 1–0

Patterson, Roger - Amerkeshev, Madiyar [A25] BC op Richmond (5.7), 17.02.2020

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Bc5 5.e3 a6 6.Nge2 Ba7 7.a3 d6 8.d3 h6 9.Qc2 Rb8 10.0–0 h5 11.h4 g5 12.hxg5 Ng4 13.Ne4 h4 14.gxh4 Rxh4 15.N2c3 Bf5 16.Qe2 Kd7 17.f3 Nh2 18.Rf2 Qh8 19.Ng3 Bg6 20.Nce4 f5 21.gxf6 Rg8 22.Bd2 Bxe4 23.Nxe4 Nxf3+ 24.Rxf3 Rh1+ 25.Kf2 Rxg2+ 0–1

Morozov, Grigorii - Nunez Asencio, Jorge [D24] BC op Richmond (6.1), 17.02.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 a6 6.a4 b6 7.0–0 Bb7 8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.Qe2 Bb4 10.Rd1 0–0 11.Bd3 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Ne4 13.Qc2 f5 14.Ne1 Qh4 15.Ba3 Nd6 16.f3 Rf6 17.Qf2 Qh5 18.c4 Rh6 19.g3 Nf7 20.Be2 Ng5 21.Qg2 Nh3+ 22.Kf1 Ng5 23.h4 Nf7 24.d5 Nfe5 25.Bc1 exd5 26.cxd5 Qf7 27.f4 Ng6 28.Bc4 Ne7 29.Ba3 Nc5 30.Rab1 Rb8 31.Bxc5 bxc5 32.Nd3 Rb6 33.Rxb6 cxb6 34.Ne5 Qh5 35.Qe2 Qxe2+ 36.Kxe2 Kh8 37.d6 Nc6 38.Nf7+ Kg8 39.Nd8+ Kf8 40.Nxb7 Rxb7 41.Bd5 Nd8 42.Bxb7 Nxb7 43.d7 Ke7 44.Rb1 1–0

Nyamdorj, Davaa-Ochir – Sohal, Tanraj S. [B31] BC op Richmond (6.2), 17.02.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0–0 Bg7 5.c3 e5 6.Re1 Nge7 7.d3 0–0 8.Be3 d6 9.h3 h6 10.d4 cxd4 11.cxd4 exd4 12.Nxd4 d5 13.Nc3 dxe4 14.Bxc6 Nxc6 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Nxe4 Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Be6 18.b3 Rfd8 19.Nc5 Bd5 20.Rd3 Bf8 21.Rc1 h5 22.Rd4 Bg7 23.Ra4 Bb2 24.Rd1 Be5 25.Bf4 Bc3 26.Rd3 Bf6 27.Nb7 Rd7 28.Nc5 Rdd8 29.Re3 Bg7 30.Na6 Rd7 31.Nc7 Rc8 32.Re8+ Rxe8 33.Nxe8 Bc3 34.Be3 Kf8 35.Nd6 Be5 36.Nc4 Bxc4 37.f4 Bb5 38.fxe5 Bxa4 39.Bc5+ Ke8 40.bxa4 a6 41.a5 Rd5 42.Bb6 Rxe5 43.Kf2 Rb5 44.g4 hxg4 45.hxg4 Kd7 0–1

Sali, Zulfikar – MacKinnon, Keith [B01] BC op Richmond (6.3), 17.02.2020

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.g3 Bg4 7.Bg2 e6 8.0–0 Nbd7 9.Bf4 Qb4 10.a3 Qb6 11.h3 Bh5 12.Re1 Be7 13.g4 Bg6 14.b4 0–0 15.Na4 Qd8 16.c4 Nb6 17.Ne5 Nxa4 18.Qxa4 Qxd4 19.Bg3 Rfd8 20.Rad1 Qc3 21.Rc1 Qd2 22.Qa5 Bd6 23.Rcd1 Qc3 24.c5 b6 25.cxb6 axb6 26.Qxb6 Nd5 27.Bxd5 cxd5 28.Nxg6 Bxg3 29.Ne7+ Kf8 30.Nc6 Rd6 31.Rc1 Qf3 32.Rf1 Bf4 33.Rc2 Qxh3 34.f3 Qg3+ 35.Rg2 Rxc6 36.Qxc6 Be3+ 37.Rff2 Bxf2+ 38.Kf1 Qb8 39.Rxf2 Rxa3 40.Qc5+ Ke8 41.Kg2 Rb3 42.Qc6+ Ke7 43.Qc5+ Qd6 44.Qd4 f6 45.Ra2 Qxb4 46.Qa7+ Kf8 47.Kg3 Qb8+ 48.Qxb8+ Rxb8 49.Ra7 Re8 50.Kf4 Re7 51.Ra6 Kf7 52.Ke3 Rd7 53.f4 d4+ 54.Kd3 e5 55.f5 e4+ 56.Kxe4 d3 57.Ra1 d2 58.Rd1 h5 59.gxh5 Kg8 60.Ke3 Kh7 61.Ke4 Kh6 62.Kf4 Rd6 63.Kf3 Rd7 64.Kf4 Rd8 65.Kf3 Kg5 66.Ke4 Kg4 67.Rg1+ Kxh5 68.Rd1 Kg4 69.Rg1+ Kh3 70.Rd1 Kg2 71.Ke3 Rd7 72.Ke2 Rd5 73.Ke3 Rxf5 74.Rxd2+ Kg3 75.Rd7 g5 76.Ke2 g4 77.Rf7 Kg2 78.Ke3 g3 79.Rb7 Rf3+ 80.Ke2 Rf2+ 81.Ke1 Kg1 82.Rg7 g2 83.Rh7 Rf5 84.Ke2 Re5+ 85.Kf3 Kf1 0–1

BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES by Dan Scoones

Sohal, Tanraj S. - Cheng, Louis [E16] BC op Richmond (3.5), 16.02.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 c5 7.a3 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 0-0 9.0-0 Qc8 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.b3 d5 12.Bb2 Ne4 13.Qc2 Nd7 14.Rac1 Rb8 15.Ne5 f6 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.cxd5 exd5 18.f3 Ng5 19.Qxc5 Ba6 20.h4 Rxb3 21.hxg5 Rxb2 22.f4 Rb5



In this position the six-time BC Open champion could maintain the pressure with 23.Qd4 but instead he decides to simplify into an ending where his opponent will be challenged to defend successfully. 23.Qc6!? Qxc6 If 23...Bc8 then 24.gxf6 gxf6 25.Rfd1 with continuing pressure. 24.Rxc6 Bb7 25.Rc7 fxg5 More tenacious was 25...Rf7, trying to neutralize White's control of the seventh rank.



26.a4! White sees what is coming and employs a small finesse to get his a-pawn closer to the queening square with gain of time. **26...Rb2**



27.Rxb7! The geometric motif! 27...Rxb7 28.Bxd5+Rff7 29.fxg5 Rbd7



30.Rxf7?! After some consideration I have decided to mark this as dubious, because it gives Black an opportunity to stay in the game with 30...Rxd5!? After 31.Rxa7 Rxg5 32.Kf2 White is definitely better but it is not clear that he can win by force. Instead, White could destroy Black's last remaining hopes with 30.Bxf7!+ Rxf7 31.g6!! (weakening Black's pawn structure and restricting his king) 31...hxg6 (Black cannot avoid the exchange of rooks because 31...Rb7? runs into the shot 32.Rf8+! Kxf8 33.gxh7! and the pawn cannot be stopped) 32.Rxf7 Kxf7 33.Kf2 Ke6 34.Ke3 Ke5 35.a5! a6 36.Kd3 and White's passed e-pawn will decide the game. Black's counterplay is either ineffective, too slow, or both. **30...Rxf7?** The final error, after which it is all smooth sailing for White.

31.Kg2! Of course not 31.Bxf7+? Kxf7 32.Kf2 Kg6 33.Ke3 Kxg5 and Black draws. The pin gives White an extra tempo for centralizing his king. **31...Kf8 32.Bxf7 Kxf7 33.Kf3 Ke6 34.Ke4 g6 35.g4 Kd6 36.Kd4 Ke6 37.e4 Kd6 38.e5+ Ke6 39.Ke4 Kd7 40.Kd5 Ke7** In this hopeless position Black finally **resigned. 1–0**

* * *

Yang, Jingyun (Ryan) – Moura, Eduardo [C41] BC op Richmond (3.7), 16.02.2020

1.e4 d6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.h3 c6 5.d4 Nbd7 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.Bc4 Be7 8.Be3 0–0 9.a4 Qc7 10.0–0 Nc5 11.Nd2 Be6 12.Qe2 a5 13.Rfd1 Nfd7 14.Bxe6 Nxe6 15.Nc4 Bc5 16.Rd2 Nd4 17.Qg4 Rfe8 18.Rad1 f6 19.Ne2 b5 20.Bxd4 exd4 21.axb5 Ne5 22.Nxe5 fxe5 23.bxc6 Qxc6 24.c3 Rad8 25.cxd4 exd4 26.Nxd4 Qxe4 27.Qxe4 Rxe4 28.Nf3 Rxd2 29.Rxd2 h6 30.Kf1 a4 31.Rc2 Bb4 32.Rc8+ Kh7





Black is a pawn down but has the superior minor piece and a potential target on b2. White must be at least somewhat better here, but it is difficult to see how he can make progress. He starts by attacking Black's apawn. 33.Ra8 Bc5!? Black has spotted a clever trap and with this possibility in mind he invites White to seek an exchange of rooks. 34.Ra5 Be7!? 35.Re5?! Falling into the trap. Almost anything else is better. 35...Rxe5 36.Nxe5 Bf6! Now White should try to consolidate the extra pawn with 37.f4, but after 37...g5! 38.g3 h5! 39.Kf2 h4! 40.Kf3 hxg3 41.Kxg3 Bg7! 42.Kg4 gxf4 43.Kxf4 Bh6+ 44.Kf5 Bc1 45.Nc4 Bxb2 it becomes clear that White must head for the draw with 46.Ke4. However, White did not sense the looming danger... 37.Nc4?

37...Bxb2! A killer shot straight from the pages of *Van Perlo's Endgame Tactics*! 38.Ke2 Of course 38.Nxb2 allows 38...a3!, and Black's pawn goes through to queen. But the text move is equally hopeless since White will have to surrender his knight. 38...a3 39.Nxa3 Bxa3 40.f4 Kg6 41.g4 Be7 Black now has a purely technical task and it will not surprise the reader to learn that it caused him no difficulties. The remaining moves were 42.Kf3 Bh4 43.Ke4 Kf6 44.Kd5 Bg3 45.Ke4 Ke6 46.Kf3 Bh4 47.Ke4 Be1 48.Kd4 Bb4 49.Ke4 Be7 50.Kd4 Bd8 51.Ke4 Bc7 52.Kf3 Kd5 53.h4 Kd4 54.h5 Bd8 55.g5 hxg5 56.Kg4 gxf4 57.Kxf4 Ba5 58.Kf5 Bd2 59.Kg6 Bh6 60.Kf7 Ke5 61.Kg6 Kf4 62.Kh7 Kg5 63.Kg8 Kxh5 64.Kf7 g5 65.Kg8 g4 66.Kh7 g3 67.Kg8 g2 68.Kf7 g1Q

69.Ke6 Qc5 70.Kd7 Qb6 71.Kc8 Qa7 72.Kd8 Bf4 73.Ke8 Bd6 74.Kd8 Qc7+ 75.Ke8 Qe7# 0-1

Brown, Gabriel - Leong, Ryan [B38] BC op Richmond (6.9), 17.02.2020

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 d6 6.e4 Bd7 7.Be2 g6 8.0–0 Bg7 9.Be3 Rc8 10.Qd2 0–0 11.f3 a6 12.Rfd1 Ne5 13.b3 Nc6 14.Rac1 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Be6 16.h3 Re8 17.f4 Qa5 18.g4 b5 19.f5 b4 20.fxe6 bxc3 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Bxc3 Qc5+ 23.Bd4 Qc7 24.Rf1 Kg8 25.Bf3 Nd7 26.Bg2 a5 27.h4 Bxd4+ 28.Qxd4 Qc5 29.Rcd1 Ne5 30.Qxc5 Rxc5 31.g5 a4 32.Bh3 axb3 33.axb3 Rb8 34.Be6+ Kg7 35.Ra1 h6 36.Ra7 hxg5 37.hxg5 Nc6 38.Rf7+ Kh8 39.Ra2 Rxg5+ 40.Kf1 Nd4 41.Rxe7 Rf8+ 42.Rf2 Rxf2+ 43.Kxf2 Re5 44.Re8+ Kg7 45.Bd7 Rxe8 46.Bxe8 Nxb3 47.Ke3 g5 48.Ba4 Nc5 49.Bd1 Ne6 50.Bg4 Kf6 51.Bh3 Ke5 52.Bg4 Nc5 53.Bf3 Nd7 54.Bg4 Nf6 55.Bf3 Ng8 56.Bg4 Ne7 57.Bh5 Nc6 58.Bg4 Nd4 59.Bd1 Ne6 60.Bg4 Nd8 61.Bf3 Nf7 62.Bh5 Nh6 63.Bf3 Ng8 64.Bg4 Nf6 65.Bf3



Black has been manoeuvring for some time but has not made any serious progress. If he does not try to make something of his outside passed pawn, the game will end in a draw, either by repetition or through the 50-move rule. Therefore: 65...g4 66.Be2 g3 67.Bf3 Nd7 68.Bg2 Nc5 69.Bf3 Nb3 70.Bg2 Nd4 71.Bf1 Nc2+ 72.Kf3 g2! 73.Kxg2 Ne3+ 74.Kf2 Nxf1 75.Kxf1 Kxe4 Black has managed to liquidate into a pawn ending and will soon be a pawn ahead. But it is not enough to win...



White to play and draw

76.Ke2? Missing his golden opportunity. After 76.c5! dxc5 77.Ke2 White gains the opposition and draws, since with the pawn on his fourth rank, Black lacks the spare tempo he needs to take over the opposition and force the pawn through to queen. **76...Kd4 77.c5** Too late! The contrast with the last note is shown by the line 77.Kd2 Kxc4 78.Kc2. Although White has the opposition, he cannot maintain it because here Black has a spare tempo with his d-pawn: 78...d5! 79.Kd2 Kd4 and Black wins. **77...Kxc5 78.Kd3 Kd5** The same difference. It is Black who has the opposition. **79.Ke3 Kc4 80.Ke2 Kc3 81.Kd1 Kd3 82.Ke1 d5** and White finally **resigned. (0–1)** As Larry Evans once wrote, pawn endings are to chess what putting is to golf.

Kenney, Jason – Shinn, Jungmin [C11] BC op Richmond (2.6), 15.02.2020

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Be2 0–0 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bxc5 Nxc5 11.a3 Qb6 12.b4 Ne4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Ng5 Rd8 15.Qc1 Nd4 16.Nxe4 Nxe2 17.Kxe2 Qc6 18.Ke3 b6



After some ambitious opening play White has emerged with an extra pawn, but also with a king position that gives some cause for alarm. But it soon becomes clear that Black is playing for a draw and not for a win. **19.c3?!** Stronger was 19.c4!? If Black continues as in the game, then after 19...Bb7 20.Qc2 Qxe4+ 21.Qxe4 Bxe4 22.Kxe4 Rd2 23.Rhd1 White has an advantage because his c-pawn is more advanced than in the game. 19...Bb7 20.Qc2 Qxe4+ With White's king stuck in the middle of the board there is a strong argument for 20...f6!?, striving to open more lines to White's king; for example, 21.exf6 e5! 22.Rhe1 Rd4! and Black has a dangerous attack. 21.Qxe4 Bxe4 22.Kxe4 Rd2 Despite the pawn minus, Black has no real worries because his active rook gives him sufficient counterplay.

23.Rhd1 Rxg2 24.c4 Rc8 25.Rac1 Re2+ 26.Kd4 Ra2 Black could consider 26...Rxh2!?, establishing an outside passed pawn. 27.c5 bxc5+ 28.bxc5 Kf8 29.c6 Rxa3 30.Kc5 Ra6



White has been advancing his c-pawn toward the queening square and with his next move he decides to just get on with it. But there is a flaw. 31.Kd6?

Necessary was 31.Rd6, and after 31...Ra2 32.h3 Rc7 33.Rc3 neither side can make much progress.

31...Ke8? During a tournament game, nothing pops up over your position telling you to look for a forced win. Had there been such a popup here, Black would surely have found 31...Raxc6+! 32.Rxc6 Rd8+ 33.Kc5 Rxd1 with a winning position. 32.Rg1 Ra5 33.c7 g6? Black's sense of danger has completely deserted him. He had to prevent White's next move with 33...Ra6+ 34.Rc6 Ra5, after which it is hard to predict anything other than a draw. 34.Kc6! It is all over now. 34...Ra4 35.Kb7 Rxc7+ 36.Rxc7 Rxf4

Resignation would have been more thematic. 37.Rc8+ Ke7 38.Rgc1 Rd4 39.R1c7+ Rd7 40.Kc6 Rxc7+ 41.Rxc7+ Kf8 42.Rxa7 Kg7 43.Kd7 g5 44.Ke8 1–0

Please send all feedback on this column to the writer at dscoones@telus.net.

THE FELL CUP

One of the chess items in the possession of Dave Hunter when he passed away in the summer of 2016 was a large trophy, some seventeen inches in height, previously awarded to champions of the Vancouver Chess Club.





The inscription reads

Vancouver Chess Club Major Championship Presented By J.P. Fell

So who was J.P. Fell? We find the following biography of Lieutenant Colonel James Pemberton Fell (1872-1960) on the <u>J.P. Fell Pipe Band website</u>:

"James Pemberton Fell was born in Staffordshire England in 1872. Educated at Harrow School in London, England he joined the Territorial Army, rising to the rank of Captain with the Yorkshire Artillery Regiment. After moving to North Vancouver in 1897 he helped layout what is today the City of North Vancouver. Pemberton and Fell Avenues are both named after this early pioneer.

On February 11, 1911 approval was given to establish 6 Field Company, Canadian Engineers and Major J.P. Fell was appointed to command the company. In August 1914, Captain Fell led the first contingent from North Vancouver overseas. He subsequently commanded both the 1st and 7th Field Companies of the Canadian Engineers on the Western Front. Upon completion of his battlefield duties he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and commanded the Canadian Engineer

Training Depot in England. In 1919, he returned to North Vancouver and between 1921 and 1926 he served as the Commander Royal Canadian Engineers for 11 Military District (BC). Between 1926 and 1946 he served as the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 6 Field Company and from 1946 to 1960 as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 7 Field Engineer Regiment.

J.P. Fell was one of the founders of the BC Corps of Commissionaires and served as its chairman from 1931 to 1954. He was also provincial chairman of the National Canadian War Services Fund in 1941 and the president of the Vancouver chapter of the Canadian Club in 1946. In 1920 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire and in 1960 he received the Canadian Forces Decoration, with two clasps, in recognition of more than fifty years service with the Canadian Army."

An illustrious career, but research has not given any indication of Fell's involvement in chess or his relationship to the Vancouver Chess Club – was he a member or merely a patron?

There are also questions surrounding the cup itself. A new base was added to the trophy around 1999 as the space for plates on the original cup became full. Yet there are only four early plates on the upper portion, followed by another set of four some sixty years later:

1936 John M. Ewing 1937 C.F. Millar 1938 H. Christiansen 1942 D. Creemer 95-95 Gilbert Sommerfeld 96-97 Toni Deline 97-98 John Hallam 98-99 John Hallam

One wonders what happened between 1938 and 1942, or between 1942 and 1995. There are physical indications that plates have been removed and the space reused, for example note the outline of a previous plate and nail holes in this detail:





Given this evidence there is the question of why these particular early plates remain and others were replaced. An additional complication is the history of the club itself; founded in 1913, the Vancouver Chess Club was the pre-eminent club in the city until 1946 when the City Chess Club came into being. Most of the stronger players switched allegiance to the City Club and the original Vancouver Club gradually faded, although it was still fielding teams in the Vancouver Chess League at least as late as the mid-1950s. By 1970 the City Chess Club had taken on the name of the now defunct Vancouver Chess Club, so the plates on the cup beginning in 1995 are actually for the championship of a different organization. Presumably the Cup remained unused after the demise of the original club until it was offered to the new club in the mid-1990s.

The remaining plates are all on the added base and reflect the trophy's continued use until the club was forced to leave its long-time home (the YMCA on Burrard) due to renovations and subsequently ceased operations. One curious feature: in 2001-2002 there was a tie and two names appear on the plate, but in 1999-2000 and 2004-2005 there are two plates each with one name. Were the latter also ties but spread over two plates, or were there two competitions in those years?

99-00 John Hallam

99-00 David Medalen

00-01 Curtis Lister

01-02 Toni Deline Peter De Vries

02-03 Peter De Vries

03-04 Slaven Mandic

04-05 Slaven Mandic

04-05 James Chan

05-06 James Chan

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stan Rogers Memorial

April 4, Chilliwack Details

Grand Pacific Open

April 10-13, Victoria Details

Keres Memorial

May 16-18, Richmond Details

BC Senior and Adult Championships

June 12-14, Victoria Details

Vernon Open

July 3-5, Vernon Details