# **BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #396**

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 (<a href="mailto:swright2@telus.net">swright2@telus.net</a>); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

#### HERE AND THERE

#### Juniors to Masters Charity Tournament (June 7)

The JtM Charity Tournament to aid the fight against Covid-19 attracted thirty-five participants who raised a total of \$1,855 for various charities chosen by the players – congratulations and thanks to everyone involved. The top scorer was Henry Zhang with 5.0/5. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jtm.ncbe/jtm.

### Romania – Canada Match (May 30)

Back on May 10 there was an online junior match between Romania and Canada, represented by LPS Satu Mare and Juniors to Masters respectively. Round about the same time the Romanian Chess Federation expressed an interest in playing a similar match with the CFC; this duly took place on May 30 over eight boards, the three girls and five boys on each team playing two games at a time control of 15+10 against their respective counterparts over the playchess online server. Romania won each round 5.0-3.0 for a final total of 10.0-6.0; Kevin Zhong was the only Canadian with a plus score (1.5/2), while Kate Jiang from this province unfortunately lost both her games. Results

### BC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP by Paul Leblanc

The 2020 BC Senior was originally scheduled to be held at the Comfort Inn in Victoria over the weekend of 12-14 June. Not only was the event de-railed by the COVID-19 pandemic but the hotel itself was <u>purchased</u> by the province to house the homeless.

Challenge really does present opportunity and thirty-four players aged 50 or better gathered virtually over that same weekend on the website chess.com to battle for the crown. With one exception, the event ran smoothly and felt a lot like a live tournament as players were able to see all the games in progress and exchange pleasantries with the chat feature. We could even kibitz and chat about games in progress once our individual games were over. Most of the players knew each other, adding a level of intimacy not available while playing faceless opponents in random internet games. The one glitch was a massive re-boot of the chess.com website that caused the cancellation of round two. Apparently chess.com has experienced an increase in activity from about 3.5 million to 5.5 million games per day and needed a breather. As it happened, we were able to determine a clear winner and a clear runner-up with only four rounds.

That winner was Dale Hoshizaki. I asked Dale to tell us a little about himself:

"I grew up in the Okanagan, and started to play chess in my teens/early twenties. I was better then than I am now! I went to University, got married and have a daughter who is growing up fast! Currently work as an ER physician. I have started to play a few tournaments again in the last few years and hope to play more in the future. The dream is to play and study more when I retire! For the tournament, I studied the woodpecker method (repetitive tactics) which I think helped, and some openings (which probably didn't). The online tournament was great! The participants were friendly and good sportsmanship prevailed throughout. I felt I was very lucky to win."

The deciding game was Dale's last round thriller against Scott Morgan. Here are some notes from the champion.

## Morgan, Scott - Hoshizaki, Dale [C56] BC sen chess.com (4.1), 14.06.2020

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 I looked at some of Scott Morgan's games and saw he played this line. During my half hour of pregame preparation, I looked at some Max Lange lines and then decided I would play this way, expecting the usual 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.Nc3. 6.Nc3!? What is this?! The book I looked at didn't mention this! Is it a blunder? After a few minutes, I decided to take the piece. 6...dxc3 7.Bxf7+ Uh-oh. Didn't see this coming either. 7...Kxf7 8.Qd5+ Ke8 After the game, Scott mentioned Kf6 was the alternative and thought to be a little better, but it looked way too scary to play. 9.Re1 Be7 10.Rxe4 d6 11.Bg5 Kf8 12.Rae1 Bf6 13.Rf4



I was completely tied up here and suspected I was losing, although it felt like I had played fairly natural moves, and moves that seemed forced, so I wasn't sure where I had gone wrong. In fact, the computer thinks I am doing OK here, but I didn't see a good way to untangle. 13...Ne7 After some thought, I found this move and since it seemed like the only chance, I played it. 14.Rxf6+ Probably he should move the Queen because now I can just play forced moves. 14...gxf6 15.Bh6+ Ke8 16.Bg7 Rf8 More forced moves.17.Qe4 Qd7 I wanted to play Qf5. 18.Bxf8 Kxf8 19.Qxh7 Ng8



This move consolidates and was the best idea I had during the game. I had foreseen this far when I played 17...Qd7. This was good, but now we get to see some completely planless drifting as I try to demonstrate some technique. 20. Qe4 d5 21.Qf4 Qd6 22.Qe3 Bd7 **23.Qxc3** The computer correctly points out that ...cxb2 was a good idea at several points during the game, but I never really considered it. But promoting the b-pawn would be useful as a way to restrict or decoy the rook at the least. 23...Re8 24.Rxe8+ Bxe8 25.Qd3 Ne7 26.Qh7 Ng8 27.h4 Qe7 28.Qf5 Qe4 29.Qc8 Qxc2 30.Qxb7 Qc5 31.b4 Qb6 32.Qxd5 Qxb4 33.Nd4 Ne7 To give some idea of how muddled I was at this point, I realized after I played this move, that Ne6+ would force my King into a discovered check. Luckily, I am still fine. 34.Ne6+ Kg8 35.Qd8 Qe1+ 36.Kh2 Qxe6

37.Qxe8+ Kg7 38.h5 c5 39.g3 c4 40.f4 c3 41.f5 Qe2+ 42.Kh3 c2 43.h6+ Kxh6 44.g4 I didn't see this either, seeing only 44.Qh8+ Kg5 45.Qh4+ Kxf5, but again luckily, I am still winning. 44...Kg5 45.Qh5+ Kf4 46.Qh6+ Kf3 0-1 To me, this is an interesting game, and a good example of how you need some luck to win a game or a chess tournament, for that matter. I did very little in this game, made a lot of forced moves, and displayed sloppy technique and calculation. In many ways Scott played a much better and more enterprising game than I did. I guess chess is fair in the long run, but I'm convinced there is a strong luck component in individual games or even single tournaments.



Dale Hoshizaki, 2020 BC Senior Chess Champion. Perfect 4-0 score.

The runner-up was Yi Feng Yang, a newcomer to BC chess. His first tournament here was the BC Open in February. Yi Feng has been playing chess since 2000, mostly in Japan and China. He is qualified as a coach with the Chinese Chess Association and has several students online. He combines table tennis for a healthy body and chess for a clever brain. He finished with 3.5/4, giving

up a draw to yours truly. I hope we see more of him in our tournaments. The top U1700 player was Doug Sly of Nelson, BC.

Our Tournament Director was Brendan Woodroff from Chilliwack. Brendan has recently taken up playing and running tournaments. Coincidentally, he is employed by chess.com and is entirely comfortable with the intricacies of online chess. He certainly went the extra mile getting us set up and logged on for every round and offering individual assistance whenever required to cope with the technology. Tournament website CFC crosstable

#### Yang, Yi Feng - Dimitrijevic, Darko [B47] BC sen chess.com (3.4), 14.06.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Qc7 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0–0 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.a3 Qb6 11.e5 Ng8 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.Rb1 0–0 14.Bd3 Rd8 15.Ne4 Qd4 16.Qh5 Ng6 17.Ng5 Qxe5 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.Qh8+ Ke7 21.Qxd8+ 1–0

### **BROWSING FOR ENDGAMES** by Dan Scoones

To get better at chess, you must analyze your losses. But many players find this task to be a distasteful one. After all, losses are a negative experience, so isn't it better to forget about them and move on? No, not really. If you don't study your losses and draw the necessary conclusions, you will carry on making the same old mistakes, and you will carry on losing games for the same old reasons. You will be stuck in the same rating class for months if not years on end. Perhaps this sounds familiar.

If you don't have the time or energy to analyze every move of each of your games, at least try to analyze your endgames, especially the ones you have lost. For the average player, this is the area of greatest weakness, but it is also the area with the greatest room for improvement. Years ago I read a claim in the magazine *Chess Review* that studying Reuben Fine's book *Basic Chess Endings* cover-to-cover would add 200 points to anyone's rating. At the time, that seemed to be a task of Herculean proportions, but today it seems quite reasonable.

Two recent articles by my Victoria colleague Duncan Haines have inspired me to go back and look at some of my old rook endings. The availability of strong analysis engines and endgame tablebases has made it much easier to identify mistakes, but of course we should first use our own brains.

### Schober, Tim - Scoones, Dan [B48] Diamond Jubilee inv Saanich (2), 23.11.1973

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 An ultra-sharp Sicilian line that I had taken up after reading an article by Lawrence Day in *Canadian Chess Chat*. It gave good results for a while but I eventually gave it up after tuning in to how risky it was. 6.a3 Bb7 7.Bd3 Qc7 8.0–0 Nc6 9.Be3 Nf6 10.f4? This would be a reasonable idea if Black had already played ...d7-d6, but with the pawn still on d7, Black's dark-squared bishop can leap directly into the fray. 10...Bc5 11.Nf5 More or less forced. 11...Bb6? Better was 11...Ne7! 12.Nd4 e5 13.fxe5 Qxe5 14.Nce2 Bxe4 with an extra pawn for Black. 12.Nd6+ Ke7 13.Bxb6 Qxb6+ 14.Kh1 Kxd6 At this point Duncan Suttles happened to be strolling by, and when he saw my king on d6 he stopped for a closer look. There is no real danger – White must recover the piece. 15.e5+ Ke7 16.exf6+ gxf6 17.f5?! White wants to open up Black's king position, but giving up the e5 square is more serious. 17...Ne5 18.Be4 d5 19.Bf3 Rhg8 20.Qe2 Rg5 The tide has swung very much in Black's favour. 21.fxe6 fxe6 22.Rae1 Rag8

23.Qf2 Qxf2 24.Rxf2 Nxf3 25.gxf3 Kd6 The exchange of queens has transformed Black's king position from a slight liability to a definite asset. White should not have allowed this. 26.Ne2 e5 27.Ng3 f5?! Not a good idea. Today I would play 27...h5! with an easily-won position for Black. 28.f4! The correct response. 28...d4+ 29.Kg1 exf4 30.Rxf4 Be4 Black still has the advantage but he is no longer winning. 31.Kf2 Kd5? After an interval of almost 50 years, I cannot say what I was thinking here – if anything. Much stronger was 31...Ke5, attacking White's rook and preventing the simplification that follows. 32.Nxe4 Rg2+ 33.Kf3 fxe4+ 34.Rexe4 The game is now absolutely equal, but time pressure has set in. 34...Rxc2 35.Rxd4+ Kc5 36.b4+ Kc6 37.Rf6+ Kc7 38.Rxa6 Rxh2 39.Rd5 Rh3+ 40.Kf4 Rh4+ 41.Ke3 Rh3+ 42.Kd4 Both sides have been blitzing, and it was not clear whether the time control (at move 40) had been reached. My next move – a serious mistake – is the result of a complete hallucination. 42...Rg4+? 42...Rg6 was still equal. 43.Kc5 Rc3+ I actually thought this was mate, which of course it would be if my pawn were still on a6. My opponent's reply came as quite a shock. 44.Kxb5 Rgg3 45.Rh6 45.Ra7+ followed by 46.Rxh7 would have forced resignation. 45...Rh3 46.Rdh5 Rxh5+ 47.Rxh5 Rxa3 I have escaped into an ending of R+P vs R. Unfortunately, this too is dead lost for Black.



48.Rxh7+ Kc8 49.Kb6 Rb3 The only defensive chance. Black must try to hinder the advance of White's pawn. 50.b5 Rb1 51.Rh5 The right way forward was 51.Rh8+ Kd7 52.Rb8 Rb2 53.Ka7 Ra2+ 54.Kb7 Rb2 55.b6 Rb1 56.Rh8, after which the Lucena position can be reached by force: 56...Rb2 57.Ka7 Ra2+ 58.Kb8 Rb2 59.b7 Rb1 60.Rh4 followed by 61.Rd4+ and then walking out the king. Eventually White will block the checks with his rook. 51...Rb2 52.Rh8+ Kd7 53.Ka6 Kc7 54.Rh7+ Kc8 55.Kb6 Rb1 56.Rc7+ Kb8 57.Rc5? Finally throwing away the win... provided Black finds the correct reply. 57...Rb2?

Arrggh. With White's rook out of position, Black can draw by playing his rook to either the third rank or the first rank, depending on White's reply. This is best accomplished by 57...Rh1! — although other files work just as well. White then has two tries, neither of which lead to a win: a) 58.Rg5 Rh6+, establishing the Philidor position. Black keeps his rook on the third rank and waits for White to push his pawn. Then he sends his rook to the eighth rank and checks the White king from behind. White cannot win. b) 58.Rc6 (preventing the Philidor defence) 58...Rh8!, reaching another class of position that White cannot win since there is no way of driving Black's king off the queening square. 58.Kc6? Rh2! ½—½ Draw agreed. Tim and I both threw away winning positions, so this was arguably a fair result.

Broffman, Peter – Scoones, Dan [A30] Jack Taylor mem Victoria (3), 05.11.1988

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0–0 a6 7.d3 Be7 8.Bg5 0–0 9.Ne5 Bxg2 10.Kxg2 d6 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.Ng4 Be7 Interesting was 12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 f5 14.Ne3 f4. 13.Ne3 Nc6 14.Qd2 Rb8 15.b3 Bf6 16.Rad1 d5 17.cxd5 Bxc3 18.Qxc3 exd5 19.Qb2 d4 20.Nc4 Qd5+?! Black has been allowed to dominate the centre. He should tighten the screws by doubling rooks on the e-file. 21.Kg1 Rfe8 22.e4! dxe3 23.fxe3 b5 24.e4 Qd4+ 25.Qxd4 cxd4 26.Nd6 Re7 27.Nf5

Rd7 White has clawed his way back to a playable position, but his next move must be wrong. He should throw in 28.Kf2 so he can defend the d-pawn with Ke2. 28.a3 Ne5 29.b4 g6 30.Nh4 Rc8 31.Rf6 Rc3 32.Rxa6 Rxd3 33.Rxd3 Nxd3 34.Nf3 Nb2 35.Nd2 Nc4 36.Nxc4 bxc4 White has gone wrong and is now completely lost... but his opponent is in time pressure. 37.Kf2 d3 38.Ke1



**38...Re7??** Here I had almost no time left and needed to make a move – any move. With more headroom on the clock I could have calculated that 38...d2+! wins for Black: 39.Kd1 c3 40.Rc6 Rd3! (the move I missed) 41.a4 Re3 42.Kc2 Re1 43.Rd6 Rc1+ and the d-pawn goes through to queen. "Always leave yourself five minutes at the end," said Bruce Harper. Good advice!

39.Rc6 Rxe4+ 40.Kd1 Kf8 The time control at move 40 has been reached, and Black is staring at a lost position. 41.b5 Ke7 42.b6 Kd7 43.b7 Stronger is 43.Rc7+ 43...Re8 44.Rxc4 Rb8 45.Rb4 Kc7 46.Kd2 f6 47.Kxd3 Rd8+ 48.Ke4 Kb8 I have managed to switch blockaders and free my rook for active duty, but it should not make any difference. 49.Rb6?! This gives me an opportunity for counterplay. Stronger was 49.a4. 49...Rd2 50.h4 Ra2? Wasting the opportunity. Much tougher was 50...f5+ 51.Ke3 Rd1, cutting off White's king from the queenside and aiming to liquidate the kingside pawns with ...h6 and ...g5. 51.Rxf6 Rxa3 52.Kf4 Kxb7 53.Rf7+ Kc6 54.Rxh7 Kd5 Black is down to the faint hope clause. It is still possible for White to botch this ending. 55.Rg7 Ke6 56.Rxg6+ Kf7 57.h5 Ra5 58.g4 Rb5 59.Ra6 Kg7 60.h6+ Kh7 61.g5 Rb7 62.Kg4 Rc7 63.Kh5 Rc5 64.Ra7+ Kg8 By an odd coincidence, an almost identical position appeared as a quiz on the ChessBase website a few days before I wrote this article. There are several winning methods, the simplest of which starts with 65.Rd7. This prepares to block checks along the rank so the White king can emerge and allow the pawns to advance in unison. Instead, White unleashes the final error of this topsy-turvy game. 65.h7+? Kh8 66.Kh6 Rc6+ 67.g6 Other moves make no difference. White cannot win. 67...Rxg6+! And just like that, Black has achieved a miracle draw. ½-½

#### Leblanc, Paul – Scoones, Dan [B13] Victoria Spring op (3), 21.04.1990

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 g6 6.Nf3 Nh6 7.0–0 Bf5 8.Bxf5 Nxf5 9.Bf4 Bg7 10.Qb3 Qd7 11.Nbd2 0–0 12.Rfe1 f6 Also possible was 12...e6, which is more solid. But there is nothing wrong with the text move. 13.Re2 Rae8 14.Rae1 g5 15.Bg3 g4 16.Nh4 Nxg3 17.hxg3 e5 18.f3 gxf3 19.gxf3 Rd8 20.Rh2 Rf7 21.Qc2 exd4 22.Nf5 dxc3 23.bxc3 d4 24.Nxd4 Nxd4 25.Qxh7+ Kf8 26.cxd4 Qxd4+ 27.Kh1 f5 After some minor complications we have arrive at a roughly equal position. 28.Rhe2 Qd6 29.Qh4 Bc3 30.Nc4 Qf6 31.Qxf6 Rxf6 32.Rc1 Bd4 33.Rd1 Bb6 34.Rde1 Bc5 35.Kg2



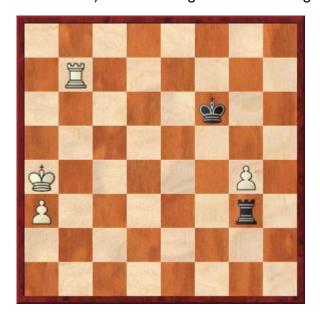
**35...Rh6?** A blunder, losing the vital f-pawn for no compensation. I remember being shocked by White's reply, but even then I should have asked myself why I was trying to get a rook to the h-file. 36.Re5! Bb4 37.Rxf5+ Kg7 38.Ree5? Better was 38.Rb1 a5 39.a3 Rd4 40.Ne3 Rd2+ 41.Kg1 Bc3 42.Rxb7+ Kg8 43.Rd5 and it is hard to see how Black can survive. The text move gives Black a chance for counterplay, one that he fails to grasp. 38...Rc8?! Black should aim to exchange a pair of rooks with 38...Rd4 39.Re4 Rxe4 40.fxe4 and now 40...Ra6 with some defensive chances. 39.Rg5+ Kh7 Offering an exchange of rooks with 39...Rg6 was perhaps better. 40.Ne3 Bd2 41.Re7+ Kh8 42.Rge5 Bxe3 43.Rxe3 Rb6 Simplification with 43...Rc2+ 44.Re2 Rxe2+ 45.Rxe2 Ra6 leads to a lost position for Black after 46.g4 Kg7

47.Re7+ Kf6 48.Rxb7 Rxa2+ 49.Kg3. 44.Re2 Rg8 45.g4 Rg7 46.Re8+ Kh7 47.Kg3 Rb1 48.R8e7 a5 No better are: a) 48...Rxe7 49.Rxe7+ Kg6 50.f4 Kf6 51.Re3; or b) 48...Ra1 49.Rxg7+ Kxg7 50.Re7+ Kf6 51.Rxb7 Rxa2 52.f4, winning for White in both cases. 49.Kf4 Rb4+ 50.Kf5 Rb5+ 51.Ke6 Rxe7+ If 51...Rb6+ then 52.Kf5, etc. 52.Kxe7 Rb4 53.Rf2?! The alternative 53.Re4! Rb2 54.Kf7 Rf2 55.f4 Rxa2 56.g5 Rc2 57.f5 would have ended the game quickly. 53...Rf4 54.Kd6 Kg6 Interesting is 54...b5 55.Ke5 Rf7, trying to mobilize the queenside pawns while supporting them from behind. It may still be losing, but it's complicated and gives White chances to go wrong.



**55.Kc5?!** After some back-and-forth we have arrived at a position offering White an elegant winning plan. He should break Black's blockade of the f-pawn with 55.Ke5! Kg5 (55...Rf8 allows the immediate 56.f4) and now 56.a4!! Rxa4 (there is nothing better) 57.f4+ Kxg4 58.f5 Kg3 59.f6 and Black cannot stop this pawn without giving up his rook. This line was perhaps a bit difficult to see because it involves the sacrifice of two pawns. It seems that White would like to win prosaically, without any unnecessary complications. **55...a4 56.a3 Kg5 57.Kb6 Rf7** Now it is Black's turn to miss a resource that has been offered to him: 57...Kh4! 58.Kxb7 Kg3 59.Rf1 Kg2 60.Ra1 Kxf3 61.g5 Rg4 and Black will draw if he defends correctly. **58.Kb5 Rf4 59.Rb2 Kf6?!** Much simpler was 59...Rxf3 60.Kxa4 Kxg4 61.Rxb7 Rf8 and again White cannot win. **60.Rb4 Rxf3 61.Kxa4 Rg3** 

**62.Rxb7** Or 62.Rb6+ Kg5! (not 62...Ke5? 63.g5 Kf4 64.Rxb7 Rxg5 65.Rb4+! Ke3 66.Rh4! and White wins) 63.Rxb7 Rxg4+ and Black again has a drawable position.



**62...Ke6?** With this incomprehensible move Black assures himself of a second-place finish. I was probably demoralized and believed the game was past saving; certainly I had no understanding of how to draw the position after the obvious 62...Rxg4+. In fact, after 63.Rb4 Black has only to find the manoeuvre 63...Rg8! 64.Re4 Ra8+! Yes, Black's king is cut off from the a-file, but the counterattack on White's pawn means that the first player will eventually have to send his rook to the queenside. Black's king will then be able to get into the drawing zone. Here is a sample line: 65.Kb4 Kf5 66.Re2 Rb8+ 67.Kc5 Rc8+ 68.Kb6 Rb8+ 69.Ka7 Rb3 70.Ra2 Ke6 71.Ka6 Kd6 72.Ka5 Kc6 73.Ka4 Rb8 and the draw is clear. The final moves of the game require no comment.

63.Rb4 Kd6 64.Rf4 Kc5 65.Rf5+ Kc4 66.Rg5 Kc3 67.Rg8 Kb2 68.g5 Rxa3+ 69.Kb4 Rg3 70.g6 Rg4+ 71.Kc5 Kc3 72.Kd5 Kd3 73.Ke5 Ke3 74.Kf5 Kf3 75.Kf6 Kf4 76.Kg7 Kg3 77.Rf8 Rg5 78.Rf7 Kh4 79.Kh7 1-0

**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 BC, admittedly long after his best playing days were over: Charles Blake, whose birth was one hundred and forty years ago this June.

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, BC at the age of eighty.

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 (open to Canadians residing west of Port Arthur/Thunder Bay) 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 US 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.



Elliott and Blake in the 1911 WCA

Blake, Charles – Elliott, Edward P. [C61] Western Chess Association 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 and Blake at a get-together honouring Blake's return to Winnipeg in December 1925; viewing the game is Prof. (Rev.) James F. Cross

### 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

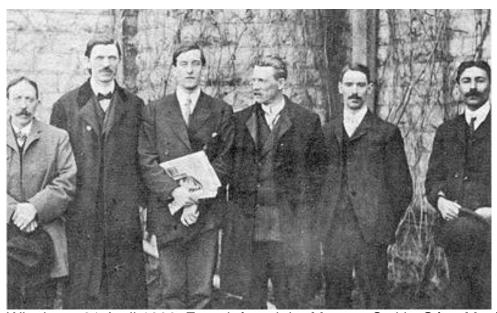
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 b5 7.Bb3 Bg4 8.d3 Nd4 9.Be3 Nxf3+ 10.gxf3 Bh5 11.Kh1 Qd7 12.Rg1 c6 13.Rg3 h6 14.Ne2 g5 15.a4 Qb7 16.d4 Nd7 17.Rh3 Nf6 18.Ng3 Bg6 19.Bxg5 hxg5 20.Rxh8 0-0-0 21.axb5 axb5 22.Nf5 d5 23.Rxf8 Bxf5 24.Rxd8+ Kxd8 25.dxe5 Qc7 26.Ra8+ Kd7 27.exf6 1-0

#### 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 10 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



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