

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #402

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

Vancouver Rapid Chess League Playoffs

When last we reported on the [Vancouver Rapid Chess League](#) in March the regular season had just finished (see [Bulletin #391](#)) but the playoffs were postponed due to the onset of covid-19. They were further deferred as the pandemic continued and have only just been completed. The top eight teams from the regular season are normally seeded into the knockout playoffs, but the Lions Chess Club declined their place and the UBC CC competed in their stead. The quarterfinals were held in early September, mostly online but teams could play over the board if their opponents agreed. The top four teams in the regular season won their matches, but in some cases not without difficulty; the Chigorin CC was losing its match against the ViKinGS until winning 3.0-0.0 in the third round, while the 4.5-4.5 tie between the UBC CC and Pawn Storm 51 was only decided in the latter's favour by a blitz playoff. Pawn Storm 51 and last year's champion Vancouver Eagles were both eliminated in the semi-finals on September 27 and October 3, leaving the Chigorin CC and Peace Sacrifice to play for the championship on October 25. Chigorin CC dominated, giving up but a single draw in the first two rounds en route to a final score of 7.0-2.0. The club thus regains the trophy it previously held in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons – congratulations! [Full results](#)



The Chigorin Chess Club finalists: Grigorii Morozov, Andrew Hemstapat, Pavel Trochtchanovitch (images stolen and manipulated from last year's finals)

Aram Arzumanyan of the Lions Chess Club was voted the regular season Most Valuable Player by the team captains.



Aram Arzumanyan



Konstantin Pyryaev (league coordinator)

Gedajlovic, Max – Morozov, Grigorii [D11] Vancouver Rapid tch f (online) chess.com (1.1), 25.10.2020

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bb4 6.e3 b5 7.Bd2 a5 8.axb5 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 cxb5 10.b3 Bb7 11.bxc4 b4 12.Bb2 Nf6 13.c5 0–0 14.Bb5 Bc6 15.Ba4 Qc7 16.0–0 Qb7 17.Bxc6 Nxc6 18.Qa4 Rfc8 19.Nd2 Qa6 20.Rfc1 Qd3 21.Nc4 Rc7 22.Nb6 Rd8 23.Qc2 Qxc2 24.Rxc2 Kf8 25.f3 Ke7 26.Kf2 Ra7 27.e4 a4 28.d5 exd5 29.Bxf6+ Kxf6 30.exd5 b3 31.Rb2 Nb4 32.Ke2 Nxd5 33.Nxd5+ Rxd5 34.Rxb3 axb3 35.Rxa7 Rxc5 36.Rb7 Rc2+ 37.Ke3 Rxc2 38.Rb6+ Kf5 39.h4 b2 40.Rb5+ Kg6 41.Kf4 h5 42.Rb6+ f6 43.Rb7 Kh6 44.Rb6 Rc2 45.Kg3 Kg6 46.Rb5 Kf7 47.Rb6 Ke7 48.Kh3 Kd7 49.Kg3 Kc7 50.Rb3 Kd6 51.Kf4 Kd5 52.Kf5 Kc4 53.Rb8 Rg2 54.f4 Kc3 55.Ke6 Kc2 56.Rc8+ Kd1 57.Rb8 Kc1 58.Rc8+ Rc2 0–1

McLaren, Brian – Hemstapat, Andrew [C02] Vancouver Rapid tch f (online) chess.com (1.2), 25.10.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be3 Qb6 7.Qd2 Rc8 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Bxc5 Qxc5 10.Qg5 Nge7 11.Qxg7 Rg8 12.Qxh7 d4 13.Qe4 Qb6 14.b3 dxc3 15.Nxc3 Nb4 16.Rc1 Qa5 17.Nd2 Ned5 18.Nc4 Rxc4 19.Bxc4 Nxc3 20.Qh7 Qxe5+ 21.Kf1 Rh8 0–1

Lions Chess Club (October 17)

The October edition of the Lions Chess Club Blitz Grand Prix was held in person on October 17 with six participants; because of the limited numbers the format was changed to a double round robin. Roman Jiganchine gave up but a single draw to third-placed Timur Zaruev in scoring 9.5/10 and claiming first prize, Aram Arzumanyan was second with 8.0 points. The current Grand Prix standings (top eight) are as follows:

Aram Arzumanyan
Joe Roback
Roman Jiganchine
Tristan Taylor

Timur Zaruev
Ryan Leong
Ashton Taylor
Armine Arzumanyan

There is one more monthly open tournament left for November 14, to be followed by the Grand Prix finals. [Photos](#) [Lions Chess Club](#)



JtM October Open (October 17)

The latest [Juniors to Masters event](#), a five round Swiss with a 15 + 10 time control, attracted a total of sixty-two players in two sections. Both winners did so with perfect scores, Kaitlyn Tao ahead of Eric Qian, Noah Nathaniel Yuen, and Harrison (Hangchen) Liu in the [Open Section](#), and Zachary Liu who was a point in front of Leonardo Zhou, Henry (Haichen) Liu, Darien O'Connor-Richardson, and Emilian Holmgren who tied for second in the [U1000](#).

SPFNO for Boys and Girls (October 10-11)

As with many other events in this pandemic year the Susan Polgar Foundation in conjunction with the Washington Chess Federation held the 15th edition of its National Open for Boys and Girls online. Apart from various side events the two main offerings were a two-day six-round Swiss at 70 + 10 and a one-day five round Swiss at 25 + 5, each further subdivided by grade and gender. A total of one hundred and fifty-nine players participated, including five from BC (that we are aware of) – Veronica (Yu Han) Guo, Andrew Hemstapat, Patrick Huang, Ethan Low, and Gillian Mok. All made their presence felt: Ethan won the grade 2-3 U800 Section with a perfect score, Veronica was also perfect in the Girls' K-8 while Gillian tied for third with 4.0/6, and in the Open K-12 Section Andrew placed first with 5.5/6, Patrick tied for fourth (also 4.0/6). Congratulations to all, notably Andrew Hemstapat whose prize includes a scholarship to Webster University (value \$50,000+). [Tournament report](#) [USCF crosstables \(2-day sections\)](#) [NWSRS crosstables \(1-day sections\)](#)

Deshpande, Aaryan – Hemstapat, Andrew [A45] SPFNO Open K–12 (online) chess.com (3), 10.10.2020

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c5 3.e3 Qb6 4.Nc3 d6 5.Rb1 g6 6.Qd2 Bg7 7.d5 a6 8.e4 Nbd7 9.Nf3 Qc7 10.a4 0–0
11.Bh6 Rb8 12.h4 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 b5 14.h5 Ng4 15.Qg5 Ndf6 16.hxg6 fxc6 17.e5 Nxe5 18.Nxe5
dxe5 19.Bd3 Rf7 20.d6 Qxd6 21.Rd1 Qb6 22.axb5 axb5 23.Bxb5 Ba6 24.Bxa6 Qxa6 25.Qxe5
Rxb2 26.Rd8+ Kg7 27.Qg5 Qe6+ 28.Kd1 Ng4 29.Kc1 Rb4 30.f3 Rf5 31.Qd2 Qa6 32.Nb1 Rf6
33.fxc4 Rxb1+ 34.Kxb1 Rb6+ 0–1

Hemstapat, Andrew – Mahajan, Rushaan [B12] SPFNO Open K–12 (online) chess.com (5), 11.10.2020

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.a3 Bxc5 6.b4 Be7 7.Qg4 g6 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.c4 dxc4 10.Nc3 a5
11.Rb1 axb4 12.axb4 Nb6 13.Bxc4 h5 14.Qe4 Bd7 15.Be2 Bc6 16.Bb5 Qd7 17.Bxc6 Qxc6
18.Qxc6+ bxc6 19.0–0 Nd5 20.Nxd5 cxd5 21.Be3 Bd8 22.Rfc1 Ne7 23.b5 Kd7 24.b6 Rb8 25.Ng5
Nc6 26.Nxf7 Rf8 27.Nxd8 Rfxd8 28.b7 d4 29.Bd2 g5 30.Bxg5 Rf8 31.Bf6 Na5 32.Rb4 Rxb7
33.Rxd4+ Ke8 34.h3 Kf7 35.Rcd1 Kg6 36.Rd7 Rf7 37.Rd8 Rb4 38.Rg8+ Kf5 39.Rg5+ Ke4
40.Rxh5 Rb2 41.Rh4+ Kf5 42.Rdd4 1–0

Elsewhere in the online universe **Leonardo Zhou** participated in the [Washington Challenger's Cup](#) (October 24-25) and tied for the U1900 prize. The overall winner was Armenian IM David Shahinyan with a perfect score, but it is WA resident Advait Vijayakumar who qualifies for the 2021 WA State Championship by placing second. We also note that **Tyler Cruz** of Nanaimo has been very active in [online events](#) ostensibly hosted in Brantford, Ontario and Toronto – geography is not an issue where the internet is concerned.

Youth Championships

In lieu of the cancelled World Cadet and World Youth Championships, FIDE has announced a replacement online championship, with a selection stage between November 27 and December 13 and the finals December 19-23. There will be the same categories by two-year age group (except no under eight category) and gender, but the time controls will be faster (10 + 3 for the selection stage, 15 + 10 for the finals) and each member federation (of which Canada is one) can only register one player per category. See <https://www.fide.com/news/785> for full details.

The previously announced **National Youth Active Online Chess Championships** will therefore serve as the qualifying tournament to select the official Canadian representatives for the World Rapid; because of time constraints the National Championships are now taking place one week earlier on **November 8**, with a deadline for registration of **November 5**. Further details at the [CFC Forum](#) and the [Juniors to Masters](#) website.

From Nick Beqo

I would like to share with the chess community (via your Bulletin) an Album that I have created recently, titled "53 Checkmate Patterns that every chess player should know (categorized by pieces)." The link is www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=BeqoChess&set=a.4741109545914381

2020 JACK TAYLOR MEMORIAL by Paul Leblanc

Joshua Imoo Wins with a Perfect 6-0 Score

The 35th annual Jack Taylor Memorial, normally held in Victoria, took place on chess.com over the weekend of 24-25 October. It was well attended with ninety-two players divided about equally into two sections.

Joshua Imoo of Surrey, BC proved unstoppable, winning every game. Tied for second to fourth were Varun Pillai of Burlington, Ontario, Darien O'Connor-Richardson of London, Ontario and Tiam Koukpari of Vancouver, BC. Varun took the U1700 trophy.

Our new chess star is in Grade 9, and has been home-schooled since Kindergarten. Joshua learned chess from a book when he first started to read, and has been playing ever since. The thing he loves most about chess is the number of styles you can play with. "You can do anything from slowly grinding down your opponent and not taking any risks, to setting fire to the board, sacrificing pieces left and right and hunting the enemy king down." During quarantine, he has been programming games and studying with the Juniors to Masters Chess Academy. He gives special thanks to Victoria, John, and Joshua Doknjas for their support and encouragement throughout the last few years!



Joshua Imoo

Winner of the U1400 section was Steven Wang of Richmond, BC on tie-break over Scott Gray of Victoria, BC with 5.5-0.5. The U900 trophy was won by Zachary Liu of Coquitlam, BC.

The event was also a fund raiser for the BCCF Foundation and \$1,000 was raised to support the BCCF. Our arbiter Brendan Woodroff did a fabulous job behind the scenes.

Hughes, Henry – Pillai, Varun [A01] Jack Taylor mem 35th (online) chess.com (3.2), 24.10.2020

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d3 Nc6 6.Be2 Bd6 7.h3 0–0 8.Nbd2 Re8 9.0–0 h6 10.c4 Nb4 11.d4 Nd3 12.Bxd3 Bxd3 13.Re1 c6 14.c5 Bc7 15.b4 Bf5 16.a4 a6 17.Bc3 Ne4 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 19.Qe2 Qf6 20.Ne5 Qg5 21.f4 Qf6 22.b5 axb5 23.axb5 cxb5 24.Qxb5 Bxe5 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.dxe5 Qg6 27.Re2 Rb8 28.Ra2 Bd3 29.Qb6 Bc4 30.Rb2 d4 31.Bxd4 Bd5 32.Qa7 Rc8 33.Kh1 Qg3 34.Kg1 Qe1+ 35.Kh2 g5 36.fxg5 hxg5 37.Rxb7 g4 38.hxg4 Qh4+ 39.Kg1 Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Qf2 41.Rb2 Qh4+ 42.Kg1 Qe1+ 43.Kh2 Kg7 44.Rb8 Qf2 45.e4 Qf4+ 46.Kg1 Qc1+ 47.Kh2 Qf4+ 48.Kg1 Qxe4 0–1

Fraser, Dylan – Imoo, Joshua [D00] Jack Taylor mem 35th (online) chess.com (6.1), 25.10.2020 [Joshua Imoo]

Leading into this game, White needed a victory to win the tournament, and I only needed a win or a draw to secure first place. **1.d4 d5 2.Bg5 Nf6** My plan here was to fianchetto the bishop and take control of the centre with f5 or c5. **3.Bxf6 exf6 4.e3 g6 4...Bd6** is the main move in this position: 5.

c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 0–0 7.Nc3 f5 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.0–0 Nf6 would be a typical continuation, where Black tries to maintain control of the centre and White plays on the queenside. **5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bd3 0–0 7.Nbd2 Nd7 8.c3 Re8 9.Qc2 c5 10.0–0–0?!** This move is dubious, as it brings the White king to a spot which is easier for Black to attack, and while White's attack looks dangerous, Black's pawn structure is very solid. However, this is probably White's best chance at winning, as it brings the queenside rook into the game. **10...c4 11.Be2** I thought White was likely to focus on the kingside because that was where his attack was going to be, so I made seemingly quiet move: **11...Nb6** The threat is 12...Bf5. I knew 11...Nb6 wasn't the strongest concretely, but I thought it would be better practically, due to the quick time control and the attacking possibilities it would give.



12.h4? Missing the threat of 12...Bf5. 12. Rde1 is the engine's recommended refutation, giving the white queen the d1 square to retreat to. **12...Bf5 13.e4** A better alternative was been 13.Ne4, keeping the c1–h6 diagonal closed. **13...dxe4 14.Nxe4 Bh6+** Preventing any escape of the white queen. If Black took on e4 first, the queen would've been able to escape to d2. If 15.Kb1, then 15...Bxe4 is winning for Black. **15.Nfg5 fxe4** 15...Rxe4! would have been a more accurate continuation of the attack, threatening a deadly discovery. **16.f3 gxe4+ 17.Kb1 Nd5** Threatening a fork and getting the knight into the attack. **18.Rdg1 Ne3 19.Qd2 Rxe4 20.fxe4 Bxe4+** If 21.Ka1, Black wins with 21...Nc2+. **21.Kc1 Nf5** Pinning the queen, and White is lost. **0–1**

Pillai, Varun – O'Connor-Richardson, Darien [B33] Jack Taylor mem 35th (online) chess.com (6.2), 25.10.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.Bd2 a6 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 Nxe4 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Qd4 Nxc3 12.Qxe5+ Qe7 13.Qxe7+ Kxe7 14.bxc3 d6 15.Bd3 Be6 16.0–0 Rhc8 17.Rfb1 Ra7 18.a4 Rxc3 19.a5 g6 20.Be4 f5 21.Bxb7 Rxc2 22.Rb6 Bc8 23.Re1+ Kd7 24.Bd5 Rc5 25.Bg8 Rxa5 26.Rd1 Kc7 27.Rbxd6 Ra1 28.Bxh7 g5 29.Rxa1 Kxd6 30.Rd1+ Ke5 31.Bg8 a5 32.Kf1 Bb7 33.Ra1 a4 34.h3 a3 35.g3 Kd4 36.Ke2 Be4 37.Kd2 Bd5 38.Bxd5 Kxd5 39.Kc2 Ke4 40.Ra2 Kf3 41.Kb3 Kg2 42.h4 gxe4 43.gxe4 Rh7 44.f4+ Kf3 45.Rxa3 Rxe4 46.Kc2+ Kxf4 47.Kd1 Rh2+ 48.Ke2 Kg4 49.Kf2 Rh2+ 50.Kg1 Rd2 51.Ra4+ f4 52.Ra3 f3 53.Ra8 ½–½

A CHESS MASTER'S LIBRARY (first published in Bulletin #42)

Some time ago I had the pleasure of visiting with the grandson of Jack Taylor who has in his possession the chess books and scrapbooks which formerly belonged to his grandfather. Jack Taylor's biography has already appeared in these columns, but here is a short version for reference.

Taylor, John ("Jack") Monteith (July 11, 1907 – September 9, 1974) Born in Glasgow, Scotland. The Taylor family immigrated to Canada when Jack was fourteen, arriving at Quebec aboard the SS Cassandra on July 1, 1922. They first lived in Regina, Saskatchewan, but settled permanently

in Vancouver a few years later. After graduating from UBC Jack worked as a traffic manager, initially for the David Spencer Department Store (bought by Eatons in 1948), later for Forsts Ltd. Jack Taylor did not learn to play chess until he came to Vancouver, but progressed so rapidly that only five years later, in 1929, he won the provincial championship. Taylor repeated as BC Champion in 1930, 1938, and 1945, and tied for first in 1953; he was also Vancouver Champion on numerous occasions. Jack never made much of a mark nationally, always finishing in the lower half of the Canadian Championships he played in (Saskatoon 1945, Vancouver 1951, Winnipeg 1953, Vancouver 1957). However, he did win a number of miniatures in these competitions due to his sharp eye for tactics; he won games in twelve and ten moves respectively in the 1945 and 1953 competitions. Jack was a very popular player, and was instrumental in the development of the City Chess Club when it was formed as an offshoot of the Vancouver Chess Club in 1948.



So what exactly did a chess master study in bygone times, before the existence of Informator, ECO, ChessBase, and The Week In Chess? Here are the contents of Jack Taylor's library that have survived, arranged by publication date:

Löwenthal. *Morphy's Games* (1860)
 Steinitz. *Modern Chess Instructor vol. 2* (1889)
 Graham. *Mr Blackburne's Games at Chess* (1899)
 Gossip and Lipschütz. *Chess-player's Manual* (1902)
 Sergeant and Watts. *Pillsbury's Chess Career* (1922)
 Mitchell. *Chess* (1923)
 Emery. *Chess of Today* (1924)
 Alekhine. *New York 1924* (1925)
 Griffith and White. *Modern Chess Openings*, 4th ed. (1925)
 Sergeant. *Morphy's Games of Chess* (1925)
 Lasker. *Lasker's Manual of Chess* (1932)
 Marshall. *Comparative Chess* (1932)
 Capablanca. *Primer of Chess* (1935)
 Sergeant. *Championship Chess* (1938)
 Fine. *Basic Chess Endings* (1941)
 Knoch. *Rubinstein's Chess Masterpieces* (1941)
 Fine. *Ideas Behind the Chess Openings* (1943)
 Golombek. *Capablanca's 100 Best Games* (1947)
 Reinfeld. *Tarrasch's Best Games of Chess* (1947)
 Reinfeld. *Nimzovich the Hypermodern* (1948)
 Alekhine. *Alekhine's Best Games 1924-37* (1949)
 Alekhine. *Alekhine's Best Games 1938-45* (1949)
 König. *Chess from Morphy to Botvinnik* (1952)
 Korn. *Modern Chess Openings*, 8th ed. (1952)
 Ed. Lasker. *Chess Secrets I Learned from the Masters* (1952)
 Reti. *Masters of the Chessboard* (1953)
 Tartakower. *My Best Games of Chess, 1931-1954* (1956)

Green. *Chess* (1966)

At least one book on the 1972 Fischer-Spassky match.

Undated: booklets on the Janowsky-Marshall, Lasker-Tarrasch, and Lasker-Schlechter matches.

Before proceeding, it should be noted that while Taylor owned the above works, in most cases we do not know when he acquired them - it could have been soon after publication or possibly many years later. The only exceptions are those volumes, won as prizes or received as birthday or Christmas presents, which have the year of acquisition inscribed in them (normally within five years of the date of publication). We also do not know how many items Taylor may have discarded from his library over the years.

It is striking how many of these titles are still available today, in Dover reprints (the titles in Jack Taylor's library are originals) or in 21st century algebraic editions. Most of the books consist of game collections, of players who were largely active before the Second World War - the likes of Botvinnik and Smyslov are conspicuous by their absence. The volumes by Steinitz and Gossip & Lipschütz were among the standard primers of their day, the Kmoch was a classic, while Lasker's *Manual* is still highly regarded today. There is only one tournament book, but it is also a classic - Alekhine's annotations of the games from New York 1924 (another classic, Bronstein's book of Zurich 1953, was not issued in English translation until 1979). There are some reference works (notably the two Fine volumes, both of which are still recommendable), along with two editions of the first English-language openings bible, *Modern Chess Openings* (rather overlooked these days, although still available in its 15th edition). In addition to these monographs, Taylor also had a large number of clipped games from newspaper and magazine columns, arranged in a scrapbook by opening; presumably this is how he kept up-to-date on the openings that interested him. Finally, he had a small collection of his own published games, largely taken from the chess column in the *Vancouver Province* newspaper; of the ninety-two Jack Taylor games available in BCBASE, here are the first and the last and the two Canadian Championship miniatures mentioned above:



Taylor, Jack – Knight, M. [C77] VCC minor Vancouver, ???.??1928

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 Bc5 6.c3 O-O 7.Nbd2 b5 8.Bc2 d6 9.Nf1 Ng4 10.Ne3 b4 11.Nxg4 Bxg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.g4 Bg6 14.h4 h6 15.Qe2 f6 16.Bb3+ Kh8 17.Bd5 Qd7 18.g5 fxe5 19.hxg5 h5 20.d4 Bb6 21.Nxe5 dxe5 22.Rxh5+ Bh7 23.Rxh7+ Kxh7 24.Qh5# 1-0

Taylor, Jack – Hall, L. [C15] CAN ch Saskatoon (6), 1945

1.e4 e6 2.d4 5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd3 Ne7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 Bxc3 7.bxc3 dxe4 8.Bxe4 c6 9.Bxh7+ Kxh7 10.Ng5+ Kg8 11.Qh5 Re8 12.Ba3 1-0

Doe, Raymond – Taylor, Jack [A16] CAN ch Winnipeg (9), 09.1953

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.e4 Nb4 5.Qa4+ N8c6 6.d4 Bd7 7.a3 Nxd4 8.Bb5 Bxb5 9.Nxb5 Ndc2+ 0-1

Reeve, Jeff – Taylor, Jack [C61] BC Class ch Vancouver (7), 14.04.1974

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.0-0 Bc5 6.d3 Ne7 7.c3 c6 8.Ba4 d6 9.Nd2 b5 10.Bc2 Be6 11.Bb3 0-0 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Nf3 dxc3 14.bxc3 Qd7 15.a4 a6 16.d4 Bb6 17.e5 d5 18.Ba3 Rfc8 19.Qd3 Ng6 20.Ng5 c5 21.axb5 Bd8 22.Nf3 c4 23.Qd2 axb5 24.g3 Ra4 25.Ne1 Be7 26.Qb2 Bxa3 27.Rxa3 Ne7 28.Nc2 Rca8 29.Rfa1 Rxa3 30.Rxa3 Ra4 31.Nb4 Qa7 32.Ra2 Rxa2 33.Nxa2 Kf7 34.Kf1 Nc6 35.Qxb5 Qxa2 36.Qxc6 Qb1+ 37.Kg2 Qe4+ 38.Kf1 Qh1+ 39.Ke2 Qe4+ ½-½

A MODERN RAVEN

Halloween is upon us, and to commemorate the occasion we offer the following reworking of Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem as given in *Checkmate* magazine (published by J.H. Graham of Precott, Ontario) in March 1901:

Once upon an evening dreary, as I pondered, somewhat weary,
O'er a mean and trying endgame which I'd lost the night before;
While I studied, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping on the chess club door.

"Come!" I cried, somewhat uncertain who could be behind the curtain,
Hoping it might be some fellow I had often licked before;
Stepped an unassuming mortal soft across the darkened portal,
And announced his name as Eppens – simply Eppens – nothing more.

"Hello!" I said, my scheme beguiling, for I to myself was smiling,
"Sit ye down, good Mister Eppens, sit ye down I do implore";
For I thought that, very knowing, soon I will some tricks be showing
That this simple Mister Eppens ne'er did even dream before.

I drew white, and so I started on an opening I had charted,
One I knew to be a ripper, which I'd played oft times before;
But, to my great consternation, he answered back in straight rotation,
And I soon was floundering wildly very, very far from shore.

Not an instant stopped or stayed he, soon he captured my white lady,
And he busted into flinders all the tricks I had in store.
On he went, and never stopping, one by one my pieces dropping,
Till he gently whispered "checkmate!" – simply this and nothing more.

Then I rose up, greatly chastened, and at once I quickly hastened
Out and kicked myself, in fancy, 'round a dozen blocks or more,
And my bump of condescension shrunk to almost no dimensions,
And my heart was very humble – humble to its inner core –
Then I vowed that youthful strangers I would tackle – nevermore.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See also the listings at the [CFC](#) and [Northwest chess](#) websites.

National Youth Active Online Chess Championships

November 8, chess.com

[Details](#)