

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #418

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.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy holiday season!

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

Chigorin CC Online Invitational 2021 (December 18-19)

Last year Konstantin Pyryaev of the Chigorin Chess Club organized an invitational double round-robin held online with a time control of 25 + 10. For this year's edition the tournament was switched to the lichess platform; the other change was the participation of Roman Jiganchine, taking the spot occupied last year by Max Gedajlovic.

			1	2	3	4			
1	Hemstapat, Andrew	2245	*	*	1 ½	½	1	1 ½	4.5
2	Morozov, Grigorii	2437	0 ½	*	*	½	½	1	3.5
3	Kaufman, Raymond	2364	½	0	½	½	*	*	2.5
4	Jiganchine, Roman	2212	0 ½	0	0	1	0	*	1.5

The final placements were also similar to last year except this time Andrew Hemstapat came out ahead of Grigorii Morozov, largely a result of Grigorii going badly wrong against Andrew's Dutch Defence in the first round. Notably Kaufman and Jiganchine only managed to take full points off each other.

Morozov, Grigorii – Hemstapat, Andrew [A85] Chigorin CC inv (online) lichess.org (1.1), 18.12.2021

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.Qc2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.e4 Nc6 9.a3 Nd4 10.Qd1 fxe4 11.Nxe4 Bf5 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Be3 Nc2+ 14.Kf1 Nxa1 15.Qxa1 Qd3+ 16.Ne2 Bg4 17.Qe1 0–0–0 0–1

Jiganchine, Roman – Morozov, Grigorii [C05] Chigorin CC inv (online) lichess.org (3.1), 18.12.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Ng3 Qb6 7.0–0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Nf3 Qb6 11.Be3 Qd8 12.e5 Nd7 13.Rc1 Be7 14.Rc3 b6 15.Qc2 h6 16.Rc1 Nc5 17.Bh7 Bd7 18.b4 Na4 19.Rc6 Bxc6 20.Qxc6+ Kf8 21.Bb1 Nb2 22.Nd4 Qe8 23.Nxe6+ fxe6 24.Qxe6 Bf6 25.Qxd5 Rd8 26.Qb3 Qxe5 27.Bg6 Qd5 28.Qc2 Qd1+ 29.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 30.Qxd1 Nxd1 0–1

Kaufman, Raymond – Hemstapat, Andrew [C00] Chigorin CC inv (online) lichess.org (6.2), 19.12.2021

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Qe2 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.g3 c5 6.Bg2 Nc6 7.0–0 b6 8.e5 Nd7 9.c4 d4 10.Bf4 Bb7 11.h4 h6 12.h5 Qc7 13.Na3 a6 14.Nc2 g5 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.Bh3 g5 17.Bd2 Nf8 18.b4 Rg8 19.Bg4 0–0–0 20.bxc5 Bxc5 21.a4 h5 22.Bxh5 g4 23.Nh4 Nxe5 24.Bf4 Bd6 25.Nxd4 Nf3+ 26.Nhxf3 Bxf4 27.Bxg4 Rxc4 28.Nxe6 Bxg3 29.Nxc7 Bxc7+ 30.Kh1 Nd7 0–1

Lions Chess Club Blitz (December 11)



The final [blitz tournament](#) of the year at the Lions Chess Club took place on December 11 and attracted eight entrants. The top three places were taken by previous multiple winners, with Joe Roback setting up a gleaming picket fence in claiming first with a perfect score, second was Aram Arzumanyan with 5.5/7 and third Roman Jiganchine.



The event also marked the end of the [Blitz Grand Prix](#) which should have finished last year but because of the pandemic instead encompassed both 2020 and 2021. The top three point winners at the end of the two years were the same three individuals - Aram Arzumanyan (131 points), Roman Jiganchine (74), and Joe Roback (51 points).

Online adventures

BC junior Andrew Yu Qiu participated in the top section of the [1st Chess Mania](#) tournament (December 11), tying for first with 3.5/4 in the twenty-player field. On the same day the [Northwest Chess Winter Open](#), a five-round Swiss on chess.com with a time control of 30 + 5, was held to honour the late Rusty Miller. To no one's surprise Tian Sang, with a 400 point ratings cushion over the other twenty-eight entrants, placed first with a perfect score; BC's Don Hack scored 2.0 points.

Tanraj Sohal at the London Chess Classic (December 3-12)

Inaugurated in 2009, this year's twelfth edition of the London Chess Classic (2020 was skipped due to the pandemic) featured an [England vs. the Rest of the World](#) Scheveningen match and the [English Rapidplay Championship](#) along with other side events. We received the following report from Tanraj Sohal:

While attending my final year of law school in England I decided to attend the London Chess Classic last weekend. There were many tournaments along with the English vs. Rest of the World Match. I played in the three blitz tournaments from Friday December 3 to Sunday December 5.



I finished clear first in the Blitz 2 on December 4 and came third in Blitz 3 on December 5. Each blitz tournament had forty players from many different countries including many titled players. I beat several titled players including GM Keith Arkell from England and IM Antanas Zapolskis from Lithuania. The first blitz event was fourteen rounds, followed by eleven-round events on Saturday and Sunday. I played a total of thirty-six FIDE rated blitz games over the weekend. I was extremely happy with the results and gained a lot of rating points.

[Blitz 1](#): 9.0/14

[Blitz 2](#): 9.0/11 First

[Blitz 3](#): 8.0/11 Third

Overall it was a great weekend and it was a nice playing hall at Cavendish Conference Centre in Westminster, London.

PNWCC Thanksgiving FIDE RR (November 24-28)

Taking advantage of the extra holidays associated with the American Thanksgiving weekend, the Pacific Northwest Chess Centre based in Redmond, WA hosted a ten-player [FIDE rated round robin](#), the minimum number required for a norm event. To satisfy the requirements for titled players the tournaments included three GMs, four IMs and three FMs; heading the field were GMs Jianchao Zhou (CHN), Kamil Dragun (POL), and Vladimir Belous (RUS), while among the FMs was

our own Max Gedajlovic. Dragun and newly-minted IM Balaji Daggupati tied for first with 7.0/9 followed by Belous on 6.5 and Zhou with 5.5; Max was among the four players who tied for sixth with 3.0 points. [Crosstable](#)

Jun Bandong Memorial

As reported on the Facebook [Chess in BC](#) group, [Isabelo 'Jun' Dizon Bandong](#) passed away on December 8. “He was a long time member of our chess group that played at the Robson and Cardero Blendz. He was a true gentleman and a fantastic chess player that was loved and respected by everyone who came to know him.”



From JD (a local chess coach and recreational player):

Recently a dear friend passed on. You may or may not have seen him in the local tournaments, but he was definitely a part of the community always supporting young upstarts. To pay tribute to him I created an online blitz tournament free for everyone to join. We're going to put up a trophy for the winner and whatever donations and sponsors we get will go into the prize pool. I know he would have loved to see all players join the free tournament in his honour. If you can kindly post it up or let your friends know that would be fantastic.

Jun Bandong Memorial 2021 Blitz Tournament

Thursday December 30, 2021

Pre-register now by becoming a member

Register time will be @ 5pm

Game Time: 6pm - 11pm

Champion – trophy, prizes for runner ups.

<https://lichess.org/team/blendz-chess-club> (click to join)

Donations & Sponsors: William Cambell - bwcampbell17@yahoo.ca

We hope to see everyone there!

JtM National Talent Recruitment and Development Program

Juniors to Masters Chess Academy Inc. and the CFC have developed the above program for players ten years old and younger. This is introductory program will focus on the development of young chess players. The program will begin in January 2022; funding is available for four players who will be selected based on their applications. See the [website](#) for further details.

(Another) Extension - Internet Rated Games and COVID-19 Rating Incentive

The CFC is further extending the interim policy to accept internet events for Quick (Active) to April 1st, 2022. The COVID-19 rating incentive will also be extended until April 1st, 2022. Players who play a minimum of 10 CFC rated games between October 1st, 2020 and April 1st, 2022 and who attain a Quick rating that is 200 points higher than their Regular rating will have their Regular rating increased by 200 points.

The minimum time control for qualifying events is 25 minutes per player including increments. The total time is calculated based on a 60-move game. For example, 15 minutes per player plus a 10 second increment is 25 minutes per player. The COVID-19 rating incentive can only be earned once in a player's lifetime where pre-bonus rating exceeds 1200. Players with ratings under 1200 are eligible for up to four 200-point bonuses in their lifetime up to a maximum rating of 1400. Only paid-up CFC members are eligible for this incentive.

Players, TDs or organizers may forward applications to the CFC by e-mail. Otherwise, a review will be conducted and bonus points added at the end of the incentive period.

BRITISH COLUMBIA – NEW BRUNSWICK SCHOLASTIC MATCH (December 5)



The Canadian Chess Challenge, a scholastic team competition between provinces, has been around since 1989, and BC has held its own international scholastic match, the Intermat, with a team from Washington since 1991. For the last couple of years both these competitions have been forced online by the pandemic, which diminishes the sense of occasion but has the advantage of eliminating the necessity for travel. Using the format of the Intermat as a model (two students per grade competing against their opposite numbers but switching opponents for the second game), two teams from the Chess Challenge arranged their own inter-provincial match, British Columbia versus New Brunswick.

The teams were determined through qualifying events run by the CMA associates in each province, the [Vancouver Chess School](#) (Maxim Doroshenko) for BC and the [New Brunswick Chess'n Math Association](#) (Eric Robitaille, President; Joshua Makarov, Director of Finance and Sponsorship; Nicolas Robichaud, Team Captain and Chess Camp Director). The two round match took place on the VCS platform on December 5, relatively early for BC and relatively late for NB to allow for the four hour time difference. The time control was 25 + 5. In round one (with BC playing white on all boards) BC built up a commanding lead to the tune of 11.0-4.0 but NB won five unopposed games to bring the scores to 11.0-9.0. Two further wins by each side brought the round to an end with BC having a slight 13.0-11.0 lead. In the second round, perhaps because it was

later in the day for them, despite playing white the NB team didn't win as many games in the upper grades and were wiped out in the lower, (11.5-0.5) leading to a 17.5-6.5 defeat and an overall score after the two rounds of 30.5-17.5 for BC.

In terms of individual results, BC players who won both their games were Sky Cui and Oliver Kaethler-Morin (both grade 1), David Liu (2), Bowen Wu and Ethan Low (both 3), Zachary Liu and Panshul Mishra-Jaiman (both 4), Justin Gao (5), Johan Aljo (6), and Owen Yuen and Aidan An (both 9), while Joshua Imoo (10) had a plus score. On the NB side Roy Shin (7), Ismail Zahra (11), and Paul Vigneau (12) had perfect scores, while Gerald Tang (10) and Amos Bell (12) had plus scores. Thanks are due the team captains and officials and to all the players and parents for participating under difficult circumstances, hopefully we can make the match an annual event.

[Results](#)

Tang, Gerald – Imoo, Joshua [C42] BC-NB (online) (2.20), 05.12.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6 4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.Nc3 Bc5 6.Qe2 Ng4 7.Nd1 0–0 8.h3 Nf6 9.d3 Re8 10.Be3 Bb6 11.Bxb6 axb6 12.g3 Be6 13.Bg2 Qe7 14.0–0 Qd7 15.Kh2 h5 16.Ne3 g6 17.Qf3 Kg7 18.a3 Rh8 19.e5 Ng4+ 20.Nxg4 hxg4 21.Qf6+ Kg8 22.h4 Rh5 23.Be4 Bf5 24.Bxf5 Rxf5 25.e6 Qxe6 26.Qxe6 fxe6 27.Rae1 e5 28.Re4 Raf8 29.Kg2 Kg7 30.Rxg4 b5 31.Rg5 Rxg5 32.hxg5 c5 33.f4 exf4 34.Rxf4 Re8 35.Kf3 Re5 ½–½

HOW TO PREPARE OR NOT PREPARE AGAINST OPPONENTS by Nick Beqo

To be successful in chess, and in any sport for that matter, there are two fundamental steps,

1. Systematic training to improve your level
2. Preparation against opponents

The second step is harder and it involves also psychology. It was even harder when there was no internet access and I am going to use as an example one of my best tournaments I played in non-internet access era. It was early 90's and I was working as a full time chess coach for the prestigious chess club OAAH in Heraklion, Greece. My salary was paid by sponsor Mr. Kostas Mamulakis, a huge chess enthusiast and owner of a construction company. Mr. Mamulakis has donated millions to chess and was a well respected gentleman. The other chess club in the city, OFI, organized a seven-round closed tournament with eight players, Berger system, and I got invited.

The strongest participant in that tournament was Ianis Maris, a very experienced 2400 ELO player and very passionate about chess. He had a government job at the public library and every time I would visit him he was studying chess using two chess boards in front of him, one for the main variations and one for analysis. Mr. Maris was a huge fan of Kasparov and was playing his openings with the black pieces, Najdorf and King's Indian. However, with white pieces he was not playing 1.e4, but the English Opening, reversed Sicilian. At the time, I was playing French and did also some work with my friend IM Timis Lirindzakis. He was kind enough to invite me at his place and work there. Mr. Maris wanted to avoid playing against Najdorf as white but just for fun I asked him once, why don't you play 1.e4 with white pieces, like Kasparov does, or are you afraid of French? He got a little upset and answered, "If I knew that all my opponents would play French against me, I would play nothing else but 1.e4 as white". I tend to agree with him, there is a reason why the French Opening is not very popular in high level anymore.

The next strong participant was Stephanos Gratseas, an experienced 2300 ELO player. He also worked at the public library but also worked as a regional chess coach paid by Greek Chess Federation and also chess coach for the OFI club. Stephanos was very tough opponent because he was playing all kind of unorthodox variations and was unpredictable. That year, Stephanos played in the individual National Greek Championship and beat GM Skembris, former Greek champion, using the Veresov opening. The other players were national master level but could not be underestimated.

The first round I was black against Dokimakis and it was a French Tarrasch. He was surprisingly well prepared and I had a bad position out of the Opening. I managed to transpose the game into an endgame where I had a knight and two pawns for his rook and won the game using a pawn promotion idea. After the tournament, my friend IM Lirindzakis apologized to me that he helped preparing Dokimakis against my French because Dokimakis was taking private chess lessons from him.

I won the next round and then in round 3 I was black against Gratseas. This time Gratseas played a sideline of the French Defence and I had even a worse position out of the Opening. Thanks to the fact that my opponent got overconfident and to my careful play in the middlegame and endgame I managed to win. Right after the game Gratseas pulled out ECO C and showed me the page where he had highlighted the variation that he played against me. To my surprise the evaluation of that variation was decisive advantage for white. We kept analyzing for a bit and finally both agreed that it was clear advantage for white but not decisive advantage. I posted my analysis of this variation in one of chess newsgroups.

The important lesson from this game was to learn **how not to prepare against an opponent**. When preparing a variation against a certain opponent, you should not stop at the point where the opening books (or the chess engines nowadays) give a decisive advantage for your side; you stop only at the point where you are comfortable handling and developing the advantage further, where should the pieces go, which pieces to keep on the board and which ones to exchange, what part of the board you should play on, should you keep the centre closed or opening it up, etc.; most importantly, find and analyze games of top players in that variation, and learn from their winning ideas. And that's exactly what I did for my next game against the strongest opponent in that tournament, Mr. Ianis Maris.

Beqo, Nick – Maris, Ianis [B22] Heraklion Closed, 1993

[Nick Beqo]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 The Alapin Variation of Sicilian is an excellent choice against higher rated players. Grandmaster Vassillios Kotronias used to say, "There is no win against Alapin, take the draw and go home". **2...e6** Kasparov has played this move against Alapin and so did my opponent. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Maris used to play the same repertoire as Kasparov's with the black pieces. The most common variations against Alapin are 2...Nf6 and 2...d5. **3.d4 d5 4.exd5 4.e5** I am not convinced that the Advanced Variation gives white any long-term advantage even after studying Sveshnikov's games. I am happy to play the advanced variation on the black side though! **4...exd5 4...Qxd5** this is probably better but after playing e6 Black does not have the option of playing Bg4 or Bf5 anymore. **5.Be3!?** This is a variation that I prepared for Mr. Maris based on the game Blatny-Kortchnoi that was published in one of the latest Chess Informants, the main and only reliable source of chess preparation of the time. You can find and replay this game on [lichess](https://lichess.org). **5...c4 6.b3 cxb3 7.axb3 Nc6 8.Bd3 Bd6**



9.Qf3N Qf3 is the idea that I liked and borrowed from Blatny in his game against Kortchnoi. However, this is an improvement to that game because Blatny played 9. Nd2 first. As i was going over the game I found out that after Blatny's move 9.Nd2 Black can reply with 9.... Nf6 and the move 10. Qf3 is no longer available due to 10... Bg4 trapping the Queen! That's why it's important to be creative and to adopt the ideas you borrow from other players according to your style and your opponent, not by simply memorizing and copy/paste the moves. **9...Nf6** Black threatens to trap the queen. **10.h3 h6 11.Ne2 0–0 12.0–0 Re8 13.Nd2**



My opening is complete but my queen does not stand very well. **13...g5!** This active move scared me a little. Black wants to attack with g4 so I have to stop it. **14.g4 Kg7 15.Ng3 Ne7 16.Rfe1 Bxg3 17.fxg3!** I am compromising my pawn structure but I have to control the square h4, otherwise Ne7–g6–h4 is pretty annoying. **17...Ng6 18.c4 Be6 19.c5 a5**



Not sure if Black had another resource to stop White's plan of pushing b4–b5 and c6 on the Queen side but after Black's last move I found the d6 square very attractive for my knight. A well-posted knight is after all as strong as an exchange! **20.Nb1 Ne4 21.Na3 Bd7** Stopping Nb5. **22.Rf1** I could insist on my idea of Nd6 by continuing with 22.Nc4 but I would rather keep it simple. 22.Nc4!? dxc4 23.Bxe4 Rxe4 24.Qxe4 Bc6 25.d5 +/- **22...Qe7 23.Bxe4! dxe4 24.Qe2 Bc6 25.Nc4 Bb5**



26.Qb2 Bxc4 27.bxc4 Kg8 28.Qb5 Rec8 29.Kg2 +-
 Black is in a zugzwang position, all his pieces are paralyzed! 29.Rxa5?? Qc7 and Black wins. 29...Qc7
 30.Rf6 Re8 31.Ra2 Re6 32.Rf1 Rea6 33.Rf5 I could take actions but what's the rush, let's "torture" Black. A chess game is a battle of ideas and war's principles apply. 33...a4 34.d5 a3 35.d6 35.Bd4+- 35...Qb8
 36.Qd7 36.Rxf7! Qe8 (36...Kxf7 37.Qd7+ Kg8 38.Qe6+ Kg7 39.Bd4+ and mate in 4) 37.Rxb7+-
 36...Qe8 37.Qxb7 R6a7 38.Qd5 Rb8 39.c6 Rb2+ 40.Rf2 Ne5 41.Bxa7 1-0

My opponent shook my hand and left without a post-mortem analysis. My friend IM Lirindzakis was watching the game and said that Maris had nothing to say, he was completely outplayed.

Another game that I played in this tournament and won due to opponent's preparation was the one against NM Mamulakis, the son of the sponsor Mr. Kostas Mamulakis. I noticed that he played the move 2.e5 after 1.e4 d5 so I played the Scandinavian. After he pushed the pawn to e5 I played 2... Bf5 and then e6 and I had a French position with my French Bishop outside the pawn chain! That was one of my best tournaments and I scored 7 out of 7. Since then I switched almost 100% into coaching and specialize in helping club players whose goal is to break the 2000 ELO barrier. For those interested in my chess program I have a [Christmas Special](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BC-WA Match

January 14-16, 2022

[Details](#)

Richmond Open

January 14-16, 2022

[Details](#)

BC Open

February 19-21, 2022

[Details](#)

Grand Pacific Open

April 15-18, 2022

[Details](#)

Paul Keres Memorial

May 21-23, 2022

[Details](#)