BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #425

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

Vancity Chess (July 10) by Murray Chu



Vancity Rapid 2 was a great success! We had fifty-four registrants, thanks to all who contributed to making this a great event! Congratulations to our winners: Open section: (=1st/2nd) FM Max Gedajlovic and CM Jorge Nunez Asencio, (3rd) Ashton Taylor; U1400 section: (1st) Jimson Dela Cruz, (2nd) Dawson Yamasaki, (=3rd) Zhengyu Chen and Hasan Tahsin Boz. <u>Standings</u> Unfortunately we had some noise issues at the venue this time. We'll make sure this doesn't happen again in the future. Keep an eye on <u>https://www.vancitychess.ca/</u> for details of our next tournament, set for August 14.

Philadelphia

Two tournaments in a row at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia which signify that the U.S. summer chess season is very much underway. First up was the <u>15th Philadelphia</u> <u>International</u> (June 24-28), a nine-round FIDE-rated event which this year attracted eighty-one players including a number of Canadians and two from this province, Ethan Su and Victor Zheng. Tying for first were GMs Brandon Jacobson and John Michael Burke (both USA) and IM Minh Tuan Le (Vietnam) on 7.0/9, with Jacobson taking a \$200 bonus on tiebreak. Top Canadian was IM Nikolay Noritsyn a half-point back. Victor and Ethan scored 3.5 and 3.0 respectively.

This was immediately followed at the same site by the <u>World Open</u> (June 29 – July 4), traditionally the largest tournament of the year (at least in the states). Among the 1450 participants were a number of Canadians and some from BC: Aiden Leong, Ethan Su, Nathan Wu, Andrew Xu, Victor Zheng, and Aiden Zhou. Most of these are juniors who apparently chose the World Open experience as a warm-up to the CYCC which took place in Hamilton, ON a few days later. Now in its fiftieth year, the World Open has become a chess festival with a large number of adjunct side events. These included an <u>open blitz event</u> (Aiden Zhou scored 5.5/10), <u>U2000 blitz</u> where Nathan Wu and Aiden Leong both scored 6.0 points, and an <u>U2400 FIDE event</u> where Victor Zheng collected \$200 for his 2.5/5 result. In the <u>main event</u> there was an eight-way tie for first on 7.0/9 with GM Mikhail Antipov taking a \$500 bonus and the World Open title by winning an Armageddon game. Best Canadian was FM Rohan Talukdar, whose 6.0/9 resulted in a tie for the U2450 prizes (his split was \$666.67) and an IM norm. Aiden Zhou scored 5.5 in the Open, the other BC players entered the U2200 where Ethan Su had the best score, 5.0 points.



Sunday Metro Vancouver (June 19, 26) by Eduardo Azmitia

IM Quang Long Le and Joe Roback won the First Sunday Metro Vancouver Chess organized by the newly opened Penny Chess Club. Johan Aljo, Aiden Leong, Andrew Xu, Arad Akbarzadeh, Le Khang Tran, Zachary Liu, Jayden Yan, Thien Lieu, and Luis Eduardo Azmitia finished with three points each.

The purpose of the tournament was to provide chess players with the opportunity of enjoying games with longer time controls. The tournament was held over two consecutive Sundays on June 19 and June 26. I had taken a hiatus from playing and organizing chess, and it has been an absolutely delight to find a buoyant and vibrant chess community. This tournament had the

participation of thirty-four players from various ages, chess strengths, and diverse backgrounds. Our chess community is becoming a very bright and striking place.



IM Quang Long Le

Eduardo Azmitia and Joe Roback

Special gratitude to Bich Ngoc Pham for organizing such a nice event and instilling the love of the game for many young, aspiring, and talented chess players. We also appreciate the support from Peter of CCS Education Burnaby who hosted the tournament at their location. <u>Crosstable Penny</u> <u>Chess Club</u> <u>CCS Education</u>

One of the most interesting games of the tournament was played by Alexander Jin and IM Quang Long Le.

Jin, Alexander – Le, Quang Long [A01] Sunday Metro Vancouver Chess Tournament Burnaby, Canada (1), 19.06.2022

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 a6 4.d4 Bb4+ 5.c3 Ba5 6.Nd2 exd4 7.exd4 d5 8.Rc1 Nge7 9.Ngf3 0-0 10.Bd3 Ng6 11.0-0 Nf4 12.Bb1 Qf6 13.Re1 Bg4 14.Qc2 Qh6 15.Re3 Rae8 16.Rce1 Re6 17.Rxe6 fxe6 18.Re3 Rf6 19.Ne1 Ne7 20.Ndf3 Nf5 21.Re5 Nxg2 22.Nxg2 Bxf3 23.Qc1 Rg6 24.Bxf5 Rxg2+ 25.Kf1 Qxh2 26.Bxe6+ Kh8 27.Ke1 Rg1+ 28.Kd2 Qxf2+ 29.Kd3 Be4+ 30.Rxe4 dxe4+ 31.Kxe4 Rxc1 0-1

Pan-American Youth Chess Championships (June 26 – July 2)

The CYCC "family" of tournaments (two-year age groups in open and girls categories) extends beyond provincial and national competitions to world and continental events. One of the latter are the Pan-American Championships, held this year in Montevideo, Uruguay. The Canadian contingent of ten players included Azher Hossain of this province competing in the Open U14 category; his score of 5.0/9 placed him eleventh in the twenty-eight player section. The big Canadian success story was Rachel Ruoxuan Chen in the U14 Girls category – she placed first with 7.5/9. Rachel was born in BC but learned her chess in China; she currently resides in Los Angeles but represents Canada. <u>Results</u>

2e Championnat d'échecs en ligne par équipes de la Francophonie (June 4-5)

The world has FIDE, the World Chess Federation; the French-speaking world, la Francophonie, also has its own chess federation, AIDEF (Association internationale des échecs francophones). This body organizes various chess events, and on the weekend of June 4-5 ran the second edition of an online team championship, the first last year having been necessitated because of the pandemic. Thirty-three teams competed in an eleven-round Swiss on the Tornelo platform with a time control of 15+5. Team Canada consisted of FMs Nicholas Vettese and John Doknjas, Neil Doknjas, and Yu Han (Veronica) Guo; there were also two teams from Quebec. The first of these, comprised of GM Bator Sambuev, IMs Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux and Chiku-Ratte Olivier-Kenta and WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet, swept the field to finish first with a perfect 11 match wins: they only gave up a total of 2.5 points out of forty-four games. Tied for second with +8 =1 -2 records were the teams from Canada and Egypt, with Egypt placing second on tiebreaks, while Quebec B finished alone in seventh place. <u>Results</u>



TEAM BC VICTORIOUS OVER WASHINGTON STATE 49.0-26.0 (July 1-3) by Paul Leblanc

Back row: Jorge Nunez Asencio, Joe Oszvald, Zachary Liu, Gillian Mok, Arpak Worya Mohammed Qanee, Paul Leblanc (organizer), Ryan Yang, Henry Yang, Andrew Hemstapat, Quang Long Le, Penny Ngoc Pham. Front row: Joyce Zhang, Brian Yang, Raymond Kaufman, Hani Albitar, Eduardo Moura (photo by Eric Gedajlovic)

This was the sixth in a series of three-day matches between BC and Washington organized by Victoria Chess. The first four took place in Victoria from 2017 to 2020, the fifth was held online using chess.com and this one shared the same venue as the Canada Day Open at the Executive

Airport Hotel in Richmond on Canada Day weekend 1-3 July. An attempt was made to hold the match in January alongside the Richmond Open but pandemic complications with the Canada/US border forced it to be delayed until July.

Team BC was the stronger team on paper, a natural home-team advantage and that prevailed with Team BC winning 49.0-26.0. Our team was anchored by International Master Quang Long Le and Andrew Hemstapat who scored 5-0 and 4.5-0.5 respectively.

Our readers might be interested in our newest International Master. Dr. Quang Long Le, a New Westminster BC resident, is currently working as a research scientist in a Vancouver start-up. He earned the International Master title in 2009 and a PhD in Chemistry in 2018. He enjoys the arts of a beautiful chess game, both tactically and strategically, regardless of the result. He aims to get the GM title before retirement.



Back row (L-R): Vignesh Anand, Kylie Zhang, Anne-Marie Velea, Austin Liu, Sridhar Seshadri, Yiding Lu. Middle row: Nikhil Ramkumar, Owen Xu, Ted Wang, Michael Lin. Front row: Vignesh Anand, Josh Sinanan, Chouchanik Airapetian, John Readey, Eddie Chang (photo by Eric Gedajlovic)

Top Washington player was WFM Anne-Marie Velea with 3.5-0.5.

The top player on each team took home \$600 each in prizes and there were additional prizes of \$400, \$300 and \$200 for second to fourth on each team. The match was sponsored by the Washington Chess Federation, the BC Chess Federation, Victoria Chess and SRI Chess Academy of Seattle. <u>Standings</u>



Quang Long Le and Anne-Marie Velea, top scorers for BC and WA respectively (photos by Alina Calota)

Mahajan, Rushaan (2215) – Le, Quang Long (2420) [B07] BC-WA match Richmond (2.1), 02.07.2022

[Quang Long Le]

1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.e4 d6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bd3 0–0 White chose a quiet setup against the Pirc which usually does not bring him any advantage. 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Be3 h6 Not necessary as I can just go for e5, but I wanted something slightly off the main lines. 8.h3 e5 9.Re1?! He played this very quickly, which is a surprise to me as this move has no purpose, not to mention a very specific problem due to the next few moves. 9...exd4 10.Nxd4 Ne5 11.Bc2?! He tried to keep his two bishops but at the cost of undeveloping both of them. I don't think it's a good idea. He should have played 10.cxd4 Nb4 11.Nc3 and takes the centre instead of keeping the bishop pair. **11...Nc4 12.Bc1 c5 13.Nf3** Be6 14.Nbd2 Nb6 Black has completed piece development, controlled the centre while White struggled to get all the pieces out. 15.Nf1 Qc7 16.Bf4 Rad8 17.Ne3 Qc6 18.Nd2 d5! A well-timed break in the centre brought Black advantage. If it's not executed in a timely manner, White could play c4 to permanently prevent Black's d5. 19.exd5 Nbxd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.f3 Nh5 22.Be3 Qc7 This is my whole idea when I played d5: take immediate control over the h2-b8 diagonal. 23.Qe2 Nf4?! However this is not strong enough: I should have played Be5 to maintain the pressure. I was worried about Bh6 but it is not dangerous. 23...Be5! 24.Bxh6? Bh2+ 25.Kf2 Qg3+ 26.Kf1 Qh4 with the threat of Ng3. White does not have a good way to prevent this. 24.Qf2 b6 25.Ne4? f5 26.Nd2 g5! Seizing the centre and preventing the White pieces from taking control of the e4–d4–e5–d5 squares. 27.Bxf4 Qxf4 28.Qe3 Qc7 Of course I didn't want to trade queens. Black's pressure on the centre and the dark squares in White's camp is increasing after every move. 29.Rad1 Qf7 **30.a3 Rfe8 31.Qd3?** A miscalculation from my opponent. He could have played more resiliently by 31.Qf2 c4 32.Rxe8+ Rxe8 33.Re1 Bf8 34.Rxe8 Qxe8 35.Kf1 Bc5 36.Qe2 Qe3 but Black should be winning here, thanks to the dominant bishop pair. 31...Be4 32.fxe4 Rxd3 33.Bxd3 Kh8 Avoided the last trick of Bc4. 34.exf5 Rxe1+ 35.Rxe1 Qd7 36.Bc4?? More resilient is 36.Re3 b5 37.Nf3 Bf6 with poor coordination, White pieces should not be able to stop Black pawn attack on the queenside. 36...b5 37.Ba2 Bxc3!-+ 38.f6 38.bxc3 Qxd2 39.Re8+ Kg7 40.Rg8+ Kf6 41.Be6 Qxc3

-+ there is no checkmate, and Black just needs to push the pawns. **38...Bxf6 39.Nf3 Bxb2 40.Be6 Qd6 41.Bf5 c4 42.Re6 Qc5+ 0-1**

Kaufman, Raymond (2369) – Velea, Anne-Marie (2070) [E06] BC-WA m Richmond (2.2), 02.07.2022

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Be7 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 0–0 6.0–0 c6 7.Nfd2 b6 8.Nc3 Bb7 9.e4 a5 10.Re1 Na6 11.e5 Nd7 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.Nc4 Rc8 14.Nd6 Bxd6 15.exd6 Nf6 16.Bf4 Ne8 17.Nb5 Nb4 18.Na7 Ra8 19.a3 Rxa7 20.axb4 Nxd6 21.bxa5 bxa5 22.Qa4 Qb6 23.Rec1 Nc4 24.b3 Nb2 25.Qa3 Nd3 26.Bc7 Qxd4 27.Rf1 Bc6 28.Bd6 Rfa8 29.Rad1 Qc3 30.Rc1 Nxc1 31.Rxc1 Qd3 32.Rxc6 a4 33.Qc1 h6 34.Rc8+ Rxc8 35.Qxc8+ Kh7 36.bxa4 Qb1+ 37.Bf1 Rxa4 38.Be5 Re4 39.Bc3 Rc4 0–1

Sinanan, Joshua C. (2286) – Hemstapat, Andrew (2241) [E97] BC-WA m Richmond (3.6), 02.07.2022

[Andrew Hemstapat]

1.d4 This is by no means a perfect game from either side, but it is a truly fascinating game. I tried to not stray too far from the game, but there are numerous interesting lines that I felt were worth examining and analyzing. Without them, I think that it may become difficult to appreciate the complexity of Black's attacking ideas and the possibilities of immaculate defences that White can conjure. In some small talk prior to the start of the game, Josh notes that we haven't played together before and hopes to have an "interesting game." As you will all see in the game, that was beyond an understatement. 1...Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 **8.d5 Ne7 9.b4** The Bayonet Attack is on the board! 9. b4 is played instead of the standard, but theoretically complex 9. Ne1. White players entering the Bayonet attack often play this line to avoids direct confrontations and messy positions, but you can't really avoid complications in the KID as one will see as the game progresses. 9...Nh5 Two options here: 9...a5 leading to quite different positions. Or 9...Nh5 as played in the game which I prefer as it immediately prepares to push the f-pawn. **10.g3** An interesting choice by White, firmly preventing Nf4 at the cost of slightly weakening the White king. This is considered to be the old main line of the Bayonet Attack. 10.Re1 f5 11.Ng5 Nf6 This is the most common continuation of the Bayonet attack, where White can choose here between f3 and Bf3. 10...f5 Continuing as planned. 11.Ng5 Typical move by White in these positions, eveing the e6 square to exchange black's key light-squared bishop at a timely moment. 11...Nf6 Bringing the knight back to pressure White's centre. 12.f3 More solid than 12. Bf3 12...f4 The most direct approach. The immediate 12...h6 is also an option. 13.c5!? I think this is White's best move. It indirectly prevents c6, an important move in such positions as well as clearing the a2–g8 diagonal which is also key in many lines. White has two other options which have been played many more times, namely b5 and Kg2. 13.b5 This is what has been played before in the past, directly preventing c6. I intended to follow the ideas presented in the game (Van Wely - Degraeve, Mondariz 2000) which continued: 13...fxg3 14.hxg3 h6 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 Qc8 17.Nd5 Qxe6 18.Nxc7 Qh3 19.Rf2 Nxe4!! 20.Rh2 Qd7 21.Nxa8 Nxg3! 22.Bxh6 Bxh6 23.Rxh6 Qf5!! Instead of Kg7, which was played in the game. Qf5!! activates the gueen immediately with severe threats. Black will follow up with Qg5 and Nef5 with a strong and winning attack.; 13.Kg2 c6 14.Rb1 Kh8 15.b5 c5 A position that has been attained twice before, which leads to a different, but no less interesting middlegame. 13...h6 14.Ne6 Bxe6 15.dxe6 Here is the last junction where Black has several options and needs to make a critical decision. To enter a slightly positionally defective position, or to delve into utter chaos. After over 30 minutes of thinking in this position, I decided to go all out. In hindsight, d5 was the best and safest move to play, but I couldn't resist the opportunity to light up the board. 15...fxg3 15...d5! 16.exd5 Nfxd5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Bc4 c6 19.e7!

Qxe7 20.Bxd5+ cxd5 21.Qxd5+ Rf7! 22.Qe4 Qg5 This is the position I was thinking of when considering playing d5. I thought that White's control of the light squares, namely e4, the backward e-pawn, the passive Black bishop, and White's queenside majority should give White an edge. Yet, upon closer examination, White's pieces are uncoordinated and difficult to untangle, while Black will speedily activate the rooks along the d-file with Rd8 and Rfd7. So I think equal is a fair evaluation. **16.hxg3 Nh5** This was the alternate idea as opposed to d5. **17.Kg2 Nf4+!?**



The battle has begun! As much as I would like to award this move with a double exclam, it sadly isn't a "correct" sacrifice. I will just leave it as an "interesting" option. It is also fascinating to note that if we throw in the moves a3 and Kh7 for example, Nf4+!! would indeed be the correct way to proceed. You will see why this is the case. **18.gxf4 exf4** At first glance, it seems like this sacrifice is utterly ridiculous, but isn't as easy for White as it seems. Black has very active pieces and a straightforward attacking plan, while White has to juggle uncoordinated pieces and meticulously defend for several moves. **19.Qb3!** Simultaneously protecting the knight on c3 and also indirectly preventing the activation of the Black Queen. Since if the Knight on e7 moves, it is met by e7+.

Now we see another example of the king being badly placed on the sensitive a2–g8 diagonal. 19.Bb2!? Nf5!! Bb2 is the natural move to play, contesting the long-diagonal but I thought Nf5 just wins on the spot with the double threat of Ne3+ and Qg5+, but White actually has an amazing defence. 20.e7!! The only move! Clearing the a2–g8 diagonal, while gaining a tempo, and prevent Qg5+. (20.exf5?? To see what happens if White foolishly grabs the knight. 20...Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Qh4+ 22.Kg2 Qg3+ 23.Kh1 Rxf5 Black will deliver mate shortly.) 20...Ne3+ 21.Kh1! Qxe7 22.Qb3+! Now we see the idea behind e7!!, Qb3 removes the queen from attack and comes with a crucial check. 22...Kh7 23.Rf2! Now we see why the King went to h1. Qh4+ is met by Rh2. 23...dxc5 24.bxc5 Rad8 25.Rg1! Rd2 26.Bc1! After a series of ultra-precise moves, White has consolidated just in time and black sadly does not have enough for the piece. **19...Kh7!** In light of previous variations involving the sensitive a2–g8 diagonal, this move should be obvious. **20.Rh1!** A very important defensive move, clearing the f1 square for the King to hide on and covering the h4 square, preventing ideas like Qh4–g3. **20...Nc6!** If it wasn't easy to appreciate earlier, this is Black's main idea of developing the attack. Black is now prepared to strike with Qg5+ at an opportune moment and the knight is on its way to the powerful d4 square. **21.Bb2** Sensibly contesting the longdiagonal. 21...Nd4! Continuing as planned.



22.Qd1! 22.Qc4?! It is worth it to point out that this move actually does not lose immediately, but with numerous best moves from White, a forced drawing sequence results. 22...Nc2! Eyeing the juicy e3 square. 23.Nd5 Qg5+ 24.Kf1 Bxb2 25.Rb1! Ne3+ 26.Nxe3 fxe3 27.Rxb2 Qg3 28.Bd1 Rxf3+! 29.Bxf3 Rf8 30.Rg2! Rxf3+ 31.Kg1 Qe1+ 32.Kh2 Qh4+ 33.Kg1 Qe1+ A draw with perpetual check. 22...dxc5! Opening up the d-file and weakening the White pawns. Black's idea is that if the attack doesn't work out. compensation can also be found in White's several weak pawns. There are positions where Black can get three pawns for the piece for example. 23.bxc5 Qg5+! Now is the correct time to play this move! Now the dfile is also cleared for the rook. 24.Kf1 Rfd8?! The right idea, but the wrong rook! I thought that the rook

on f8 would be hanging if White plays Nd5, so I used the f-rook. This is actually not necessary as Nd5 is best met my Nxe6! Also, more concrete reasoning is found due to a key variation below. 24...Rad8! 25.Rb1!? (25.Nd5 Nxe6! (25...Rxd5? 26.exd5 Nf5 27.Bxg7! White gives up the queen but nabs too many pieces. 27...Ne3+ 28.Ke1 Qg3+ 29.Kd2 Nxd1 30.Bxf8 Now my reasoning of using the f-rook is evident. The rook hangs.) 26.Bxg7 Nxg7! 27.Qb3 c6! 28.Nc3 With a series of precise moves, Black has managed to equalize. Here's a sample-line of a possible continuation. 28...b5! 29.cxb6 Nh5! 30.b7 Ng3+ 31.Kf2 Qc5+ 32.Kg2 Qg5 33.Kf2 Qc5+ with a draw) 25...Nxe6 26.Nd5 c6 27.Bxg7 Nxg7 28.Rxb7 cxd5 29.Qd4! Qf6! In this position, with the rooks on f8 and d8, black is able to consolidate and equalize.



25.Bd3? 25.Nd5?? Now this is a mistake without the hanging rook on f8! 25...Rxd5 26.exd5 Nf5 27.Bxg7 Ne3+ 28.Ke1 Nxd1 29.Bxh6 Qg2!! The key move! And Black wins; 25.Rb1!! White's only winning move! A subtle prophylactic move that removes the rook from the a1-h8 diagonal and overprotects the bishop on b2. White simply ignores the "threats" on the d-file. Here are a few sample lines. 25...c6 (25...Nf5 26.exf5 Rxd1+27.Rxd1 Qxf5 28.Rd7!! Again, the only move that secures White's victory. 28...Qxe6 29.Rxc7 Kh8 30.Ne4!! Bxb2 31.Rxh6+ Kg8 32.Ng5 Qxa2 33.Rxg6+ Kf8 34.Ne6+ and white wins.) 26.Nd5! Nxe6 27.Bxg7 Nxg7 28.Qd4! A very important move which highlights why it was crucial to use the a-rook. 28...cxd5 29.Rxb7 Rg8 30.Qxd5 and White wins. 25...Qg3? This seemingly natural move, attacking the weakened

f3–pawn is actually a critical error! Instead, c6! should've been played. 25...c6! 26.Rc1! Nxe6 27.Qe2 Rd7 28.Bc2 Be5 29.Rd1 Rad8 30.Rxd7+ Rxd7 With 2 pawns for the piece and a very active position, Black is virtually equal. **26.Nd5! c6! 27.Nc7??** Although Nd5 was a good move, this follow-up is not! White still has an amazing response that we both overlooked, Rc1!! 27.Rc1!! cxd5 28.Bxd4! Bxd4 29.Rc2! White gives back the piece at the right moment and manages to activate the a-rook. White defends against all threats and also threatens Rg2, so the following responses are forced. 29...dxe4 30.Bxe4 Bg7 31.Rd2 Qg5 32.Rd6! White has consolidated and

Black is just lost. Rg1, also pressuring g6 is already threatened by White which will make Black's position collapse. **27...Nxf3!** The ultra-important f-pawn falls and all of Black's pieces roar to life. **28.Bxg7 (diagram) 28...Nh4!!** The only winning move! Black unleashes a discovered attack on



the bishop on d3 whilst also threatening Qg2+ followed by Nf3+. White resigns as he is lost in all lines. **0-1**

Below are a few sample variations why this is the only winning move and why White loses. 28...Nh2+?? 29.Rxh2 Rxd3 30.Qc2 Rad8 31.Nd5! cxd5 32.Bf6! dxe4! 33.Bxd8 Rf3+ 34.Rf2 Qh2 35.Rxf3 Qxc2 36.Rxf4 Qd3+ 37.Kg2 Qxd8 with a draw;

28...Kxg7?? 29.e7!! Rxd3 30.e8N+! Rxe8 31.Nxe8+ Kf8 32.Qxd3 Nh2+ 33.Ke2 Qg2+ 34.Kd1 Qxh1+ 35.Kc2 Qxa1 36.Qd6+!! Kxe8 37.Qxg6+ Kf8 38.Qf5+ Kg7 39.Qd7+ with a draw by perpetual check;

28...Ng5?? 29.Nd5 Kxg7! 30.e7 cxd5 31.exd8Q Rxd8 32.Bc2! dxe4! 33.Qxd8 Qf3+ 34.Kg1 Qg3+ 35.Kf1 with another draw by perpetual check.

Let's see what can happen after 28...Nh4!!: 29.Rxh4 Rxd3 30.Nxa8 (30.Qg4 Rf3+ If White doesn't give up the queen, we have a nice forced mating sequence. 31.Ke2 Qf2+ 32.Kd1 Qf1+ 33.Kd2 Qd3+ 34.Kc1 Rf1+ 35.Kb2 Rf2+ 36.Kc1 Qc2#; 30.Bd4 Rxd1+ 31.Rxd1 Rd8 32.e7 Qf3+ 33.Ke1 Qxe4+ 34.Kf1 Qxe7; 30.Bf6 g5 31.Bxg5 Rf3+ 32.Qxf3 Qxf3+ 33.Ke1 Qg3+ 34.Ke2 Qxg5) 30...Rxd1+ 31.Rxd1 Qxh4 32.Rd7! Qh3+! 33.Ke1 Qxe6 34.Rxb7 Qxe4+ With a key manoeuvre, Black gets rid of the key e-pawns which result in a winning endgame. The rook and two minor pieces are simply not enough in this position, being uncoordinated against the connected Black pawns, active queen, and exposed White king. 35.Kd2 An amazing conclusion to a hard-fought game from both sides! All I will say to conclude is, "fortis fortuna adiuvat!"

CANADA OPEN DAY (July 1-3)



Canada Day does not always result in a long weekend but as it happens, in 2022 the Canadian and American national days bracketed the weekend of 2-3 July. It seemed like a logical weekend to hold both the annual BC vs Washington challenge match and an open side-event. Thus was born the 2022 Canada Day Open, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Executive Airport Hotel in Richmond.

The six-round tournament was divided into four sections with the U1100 being the most popular group with eighty-two players, almost half the entire field. In the Premier Section Brandon Zhu, Jerry Wang, Louis Cheng and Matthew He tied for first place at 4.5-0.5 and took home \$250 each. There were clear winners in the other three sections. In the U1800 Section Peter Mingrone of Victoria finished at 5.0-1.0 and won \$500, gaining 235 rating points along the way. Second U1800 was Peter Qian Cheng at 4.5-0.5 winning \$300. In the U1500 Section Hasan Tahsin Boz won \$400 with a score of 5.0-1.0. Only one player in the tournament had a perfect score – Alex Jin captured the U1100 Section at 6.0-0.0 and won \$350.

The Chief Arbiter was Stephen Wright, assisted by Alina Calota. The organizer was Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess with support from Roger Patterson.

<u>Standings</u>

Cheng, Louis (1953) – Zhu, Brandon (2176) [A81] Canada Day op Richmond (4.1), 02.07.2022

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 g6 5.c3 Bg7 6.Qb3 d5 7.Ne5 Nc6 8.Bf4 0–0 9.a4 e6 10.Nd2 Nh5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Be5 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Qe7 14.Qc2 a5 15.Nb3 Bd7 16.Bf3 Ng7 17.h4 h5 18.e3 Rfb8 19.Nc1 Ra6 20.Nd3 Ra7 21.Kf1 Bc8 22.Kg2 Ba6 23.Nf4 Qe8 24.Rhb1 Rab7 25.b3 Rb6 26.Ra2 c5 27.Rab2 Kh7 28.Be2 Bxe2 29.Qxe2 R8b7 30.f3 Qb8 31.Nd3 Rxb3 32.Rxb3 Rxb3 33.Rxb3 Qxb3 34.Nxc5 Qxc3 35.Nd7 f4 36.Nf6+ Kh6 37.g4 g5 38.exf4 gxf4 39.Kh3 Qe3 40.Qxe3 fxe3 41.Kg2 c5 42.Kf1 d4 43.Ke2 Kg6 44.Nd7 c4 45.Nc5 Nf5 46.gxf5+ Kxf5 47.Nb7 Kf4 48.Nxa5 d3+ 49.Kd1 c3 50.Nb3 Kxf3 0–1

Alex Jin (photos by Alina Calota)







Alina Calota, Stephen Wright and Paul Leblanc (photo by Eduardo Moura)

CANADIAN YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS (July 8-11)

Held in person for the first time since 2019, this year's CYCC in Hamilton, Ontario abandoned the usual qualification requirements and were open to all. A large number of the entrants were from BC, including Mathew Ashley, Zachary Chua, Jeffrey Deng, Neil Doknjas, Justin Gao, Yu Han (Veronica) Guo, Matthew He, Emilian Holmgren, Azher Hossain, Winston Huang, Kate (Yuhua) Jiang, William Jiang, Aiden Leong, Anthony Zongyue Li, Zachary Liu, Aiden Lu, Jacky Wang Luan, Erwin Mok, Gillian Mok, Jessica Qian, Dorsa Shaeri, Ameya Shah, Ethan Su, Dennis Haoze Wang, Nicholas Pei-Chang Wu, Andrew Xu, Hannah Xu, Joey Xu, Samuel Xu, Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, Larry Yang, Nathan Yi-Hsin Yang, Oliver Ye, Christopher Yu, Ryan Bole Yu, Kai Zhang, and Raymond Tangning Zhang (apologies if I missed anyone). After seven rounds of competition BC had several prize winners: Kai Zhang tied for third in the U8 Open; Zachary Liu (U10 Open) placed second; Wesley Russell tied for third in the U12 Open; Ethan Su and Ryan Yang just missed the podium in the U14 Open; Veronica Guo tied for first but placed second in the U16 Girls; and Neil Doknjas (U18 Open) placed second, was also co-winner of the CYCC Blitz event – congratulations to all! <u>Standings</u>

Wu, Nicholas Pei-Chang (1395) – Mendes, Aaron (2106) [A45] CYCC U10 Hamilton (3.1), 09.07.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qd2 c6 5.f3 e6 6.e4 dxe4 7.fxe4 Bb4 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Nf3 c5 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0-0 0-0-0 14.Qe3 Qg7 15.a3 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Kb8 17.Qe3 cxd4 18.Rxd4 Nb6 19.Rhd1 Rc8 20.Qf4+ Ka8 21.Qd6 Nc4 22.Qd7 g5 23.h3 h5 24.Qb5 Nb6 25.Qxg5 Qf8 26.Qf6 Rg8 27.R1d2 Nc4 28.R2d3 e5 29.Nxe5 Nxe5 30.Qxe5 Rxg2 31.c3 Qh6+ 32.Kb1 Qb6 33.Rd2 Rg1+ 34.Ka2 f6 35.Qd6 Qb5 36.Qc7 a6 37.Qxc8+ Ka7 38.Rd5 Qf1 39.Qc5+ b6 40.Qc7+ Ka8 41.Rd8# 1-0

Doknjas, Neil (2262) – Zomorrordian, Eilia (2263) [B43] CYCC U18 Hamilton (5.2), 10.07.2022

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Bd3 Qb6 7.Nb3 Nc6 8.Bf4 d6 9.a4 b4 10.a5 Qc7 11.Na4 Ne5 12.Nb6 Nxd3+ 13.cxd3 Rb8 14.Rc1 Qd8 15.Qd2 e5 16.Be3 Be6 17.Qxb4 Nf6 18.Nd2

Be7 19.0–0 0–0 20.Qc3 d5 21.Qxe5 Ng4 22.Qg3 Bh4 23.Qf3 Ne5 24.Qe2 dxe4 25.dxe4 Bf6 26.Rfd1 Nd3 27.Rc2 Nxb2 28.Rf1 Nd3 29.f4 Nb4 30.Rcc1 Na2 31.Rce1 Bc3 32.f5 Bc8 33.Nd5 Bxa5 34.Qc4 Nb4 35.f6 Nxd5 36.exd5 Re8 37.Qf4 Rb6 38.Bd4 Rxe1 39.Rxe1 Rb4 40.Qg5 Qf8 41.Re8 g6 42.Rxf8+ Kxf8 43.Bc5+ 1–0

CANADIAN OPEN (July 11-17) by Eduardo Moura



(photo by Victoria Doknjas)

The Canadian Open 2022 took place in Hamilton, Ontario, from July 11 to 17. The tournament attracted the participation of two hundred and thrity-five chess players, including ten GMs, one WGM, nine IMs, and seven FMs. BC was well represented with twenty-five players, mostly juniors who had played in the Canadian Youth Chess Championships, which were held in Hamilton prior to the Canadian Open.

Two IMs tied for first place with 7.5 points out of 9 games: Nikolay Noritsyn from Ontario and Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux from Quebec. Both were undefeated and finished the tournament ahead of a strong field of experienced GMs. Full results are available at: <u>http://can-open.ca/standings.html</u>.

The BC team had a good showing. The juniors are getting stronger by the day and gaining experience facing stronger competition. This bodes well for the future of BC chess. Top scorer from BC was Neil Doknjas, who finished in 18th place with 6.5 points, including a win over GM Aman Hambleton. I finished in 32nd with 6.0 points - six wins and losses to 2 GMs and an IM. Ryan Leong finished 41st - also with 6.0 points - and won first prize in the Under 1900 category. The young Jingyun Yang finished with 5.5 points but was playing for more in the final round, which he unfortunately lost after a complex battle at the board. Lastly, I must congratulate the organizers and arbiters for running a smooth tournament. The top eight boards were being broadcast live on the internet and the playing conditions were excellent. Everybody I chatted with had a good time in Hamilton.

Doknjas, Neil (2262) – Hambleton, Aman (2549) [B47] CAN op Hamilton (5.1), 14.07.2022



(photo by Victoria Doknjas)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.f4 a6 7.Nxc6 Qxc6 8.Bd3 b5 9.Qe2 Bb7 10.Bd2 Rc8 11.a3 h5 12.Rf1 Be7 13.0–0–0 Nf6 14.Rf3 b4 15.axb4 Bxb4 16.f5 Bxc3 17.Bxc3 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Qxe4 19.Qd2 Qa4 20.b3 Qb5 21.f6 gxf6 22.Bxf6 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Rg8 24.Qd6 Rxc2+ 25.Kxc2 Qf5+ 26.Kc1 Qxf6 27.Qxd7+ Kf8 28.Qc8+ Kg7 29.Rg1+ Kh6 30.Rxg8 Qa1+ 31.Kc2 Qa2+ 32.Kc3 Qa1+ 33.Kb4 Qe1+ 34.Qc3 a5+ 35.Kc4 Qf1+ 36.Kc5 1–0

Mikhalevski, Victor (2629) – Moura, Eduardo (2194) [A43] CAN op Hamilton (8.8), 16.07.2022 [Eduardo Moura]



1.d4 This game was played in round 8. GM Mikhalevski was ranked #1 by rating at the start of the tournament and finished in 3rd place. 1...c5 2.d5 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 g6 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.a4 Bg7 7.Nf3 0–0 8.h3 Na6 9.0–0 Nc7 10.Bc4 a6 11.e5 dxe5 12.Nxe5 Rb8 13.Bf4 b5 14.axb5 axb5

15.Nxd7 Nxd7 16.Bxc7 Qxc7 17.Nxb5 Qf4 I was happy with the outcome of the opening. Playing a GM with the black pieces I am now going to recover the pawn I had sacrificed and obtain a good game due to the activity of my pieces and strong bishop on g7. **18.Be2 Bxb2 19.Ra7 Rfd8 20.g3 Qf6 21.c4 Nb6 22.Qc2 Ra8 23.Rb1 Rxa7 24.Nxa7 Bd4** Both players were already in time trouble. **25.Bf1 Ra8 26.Nc6 Nd7 27.Qe2 Ra3** Eyeing g3. **28.Kg2 Ne5 29.Nxd4** GM Mikhalevski was a gentleman and analysed the game with me at the end. He decided to take some chances by playing Nxd4 and felt Nxe5 would be more prudent. **29...cxd4 30.c5 d3** Both sides have a passed pawn. **31.Qe4 g5??** 31...Rc3 placing the rook behind White's passed pawn would keep the game balanced but the position would still be very complex according to engines. I played g5 in order to prevent White from playing Qf4. **32.c6??** Blunders from both sides in time trouble. **32.Rb6** would give White a decisive advantage. **32...Ra2 33.Qe3 Nc4?** This was my last chance to get back into the game. **33...Rc2** would again be fine for Black. **34.Qc5** Now White is winning and the GM does not give me another chance. **34...Nd2 35.c7 Ne4 36.c8Q+ Kg7 37.Qe3 Rxf2+ 38.Kg1 Rf3 39.Qxe4 Rxg3+ 40.Bg2 1–0**

2022 BC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (July 15-17) by Paul Leblanc



Back row: Billy Carroll, Dan Catona, Dennis Gairdner, Ken Forman, Mark Gulbinowicz, Robert Swartz, James Kerry. Middle row: James Taylor, Jose Kagaoan, Mayo Fuentebella, Jose Prem, Robert Barron, Hugh Long, Scott Morgan, Hector Curiel, Rio Vilches, Paul MacDonell. Seated: John Bouchard, Roger Patterson, Norman Batisse, Joe Oszvald, Brian McLaren, Philip Harris, Edward Enns, Arpak Worya. Front row: Paul Leblanc, Jofrel Landingen, Norman Verdon. Missing: Brian Sullivan (photo by Stephen Wright)

The tenth annual BC Senior Championship took place at the Comfort Inn in Surrey on the weekend of 15-17 July. It was beyond doubt the friendliest tournament on the BCCF schedule. Two cochampions emerged with 4.5–0.5 scores, Arpak Worya and Mayo Fuentebella. They are both previous champions. Arpak was awarded the first place trophy on tie-break. They won \$250 each. In third place with 4.0–1.0 was Scott Morgan who has recently re-joined the chess scene after a long absence. It has been great to see him back in action.



Mayo Fuentebella, Paul Leblanc, Arpak Worya (photos by Scott Morgan)

Mark Gulbinowicz

Top U1800 was a tie between Paul Leblanc, Philip Harris and Hector Curiel with 3.0 points out of 5. The trophy went to Paul Leblanc on tie-break. The \$250 prize was split three ways. Top U1400 was Mark Gulbinowicz with 3.0 points out of 5, winning \$250. The tournament was organized by Victoria Chess and sponsored by Victoria Chess, the BCCF, Neale Monkhouse, Chris Johnston and Don Hack. <u>Standings</u>



Dan Catona (left) was awarded a \$300 travel allowance to travel to the Canadian Senior Championship in Halifax. The prize is granted annually to the top finisher in each championship (Closed, Women's, Senior and Junior) who actually travels to the national championship. Opposite Dan is his last round opponent Hector Curiel. In the background are Philip Harris (left) and John Bouchard (right). (photo by Paul Leblanc)

Mohammed Qanee, Arpak Worya (2130) – Forman,Ken (1613) [B88] BC sen 10th Surrey (1.1), 15.07.2022

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.Be3 0–0 9.0–0 Bd7 10.f4 Nc6 11.f5 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 exf5 13.exf5 Bc6 14.Rad1 Qa5 15.Qb6 Qxb6 16.Bxb6 Rac8 17.Rfe1 Bd8 18.Bd4 Bc7 19.Re7 Bd8 20.Re2 Bc7 21.Rde1 Ba5 22.h3 h6 23.g4 Bb4 24.Kh2 d5 25.Kg3 Ne4+ 26.Kf4 g5+ 27.Kf3 Nxc3 28.bxc3 Bxc3 29.Rd1 Bxd4 30.Rxd4 Bb5 31.Re7 Rc3+ 32.Kg2 Bc4 33.Rxb7 Bxb3 34.cxb3 Rc2+ 35.Kf3 Rxa2 36.Rxd5 Kg7



37.Rd6 Rh2 38.Rg6+ Kh7 39.Kg3 Rc2 40.Rxa6 Rc3+ 41.Kg2 Rc2+ 42.Kf3 Rc3+ 43.Ke4 Rxh3 44.Ke5 h5 45.gxh5 Rxh5 46.b4 Re8+ 47.Kf6 g4 48.Kxf7 Rg8 49.f6 g3 50.Raa7 Re5 51.Re7 Rxe7+ 52.fxe7 g2 53.e8Q g1Q 54.Kf6+ Kh6 55.Qf7?? (55.Rh7+!!) Rg6+ 56.Ke5 Qe3+ 57.Kd5 Qd3+ and, both low on time, the players agreed a draw in a position where the computer says Black has a mate in nine. $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

UPCOMING EVENTS

See also the listings at the <u>CFC</u> and <u>Northwest chess</u> websites

BC Day Open

Richmond, July 30 – August 1 Details

Vancity Rapid 3

Richmond, August 14 Details

Langley Open

Langley, September 3-5 Details