

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #432

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 for the New Year ahead!

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

Fraser Valley Rapid 2 (January 14)



Organized by Umang Banatwala and the [Fraser Valley Chess Club](#), Fraser Valley Rapid 2 almost doubled in size in comparison to the first tournament in December. Held again at the Christian Life Assembly in Langley, this second event attracted ninety-seven players in two sections, up from the previous fifty-one.

The overall winner of the Open Section was NM Mayo Fuentebella, who put up a shiny picket fence of six straight wins. Tied for second a full 1.5 points back were CM Jorge Nunez Asencio (who won the last event) and Bowen Wu, who with a rating of 1324 was eligible to play in the lower section yet scored 4.5 points in the open, raising his quick rating over 300 points in the process. Best Female was Bella Wang and Best Unrated Jerry Wang.

Tony Wang won the U1400 Section with a perfect score, Daniel Folster was second on tiebreak ahead of Rishab Ganesh, Srush Mohammad, Rio Vilches and James Lui who all tied with 5.0/6; Annika Nicolle was the Best Female. Registration is already open for [Fraser Valley Rapid 3](#) on February 25, also the [Raphael U1500 and U2000 Blitz](#) on February 5. [Tournament website](#) [Open U1400](#)

Pan-American Intercollegiate (January 5-9)



The Hart House team: Tanner McNamara (coach), Nicholas Vettese, Victor Zheng, Matthew Shih, Tanraj Sohal, Derek Ma, Yunshan Li, Cindy Qiao, Wenzhi Dai

This year's Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship, held in Seattle in early January, did not feature any teams from BC but included at least two players with connections to this province, FM Tanraj Sohal and Victor Zheng, both now members of the University of Toronto's Hart House Chess Club. Tanraj scored 3.5/6 on board three for the U of T "A" team which won the prize for Top International Team, while Victor had 4.5/6 on board four for their "B" Team. Overall winners were Webster University "A" who won all their matches and who are coached by GM Lê Quang Liêm, brother of New Westminster IM Lê Quang Long. [Hart House report by Victor Zheng chess.com report](#) [Standings](#)

Vancity January Rapid (January 8)



Another month, another Vancity Rapid event. But this one, held at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC on January 8, also institutes a seasonal and year-long league where points from

individual events can be accumulated, in Grand Prix fashion, for rewards further down the road. For further details see the Vancity [website](#). As for this first event of the new season, in the thirty-two player Open Section IM Vicente Lee Jr. returned to the winner's circle to claim the first prize with a score of 5.5/6, Zachary Burrows was a half point back, and tied for third were last tournament's winner Leo Qu and FM Joshua Doknjas. Panshul Mishra Jaiman and Jimmy Zhang tied for first in the forty-seven player U1400 Section, drawing with each other in the last round, while Daniel O'Mahony and Brian Lin tied for third. Apart from the Rapid events and the new league Vancity Chess are also organizing various casual and sectional tournaments, check out their [website](#) for more details. [Open U1400](#)

8th Gulf Coast New Year's Open (January 6-8)

Held in Estero (between Fort Myers and Naples on Florida's Gulf Coast), this five-round Swiss in five sections attracted one hundred and forty players, including BC co-champion IM Raymond Kaufman. Raymond tied for first with GM Nikola Mitkov (North Macedonia) on 4.0 points but won the trophy on tiebreak. [Standings](#)

Kaufman, Raymond (2156) – Hernandez Gonzalez, William (2485) [E20] Gulf Coast New Year op 8th Estero (4), 08.01.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 b6 5.a3 Bxc3 6.Bxc3 Ne4 7.Rc1 Bb7 8.Nf3 d6 9.g3 Ng5 10.d5 Nxf3+ 11.exf3 0–0 12.Be2 exd5 13.Qd4 f6 14.cxd5 Re8 15.Kf1 Nd7 16.b4 Qe7 17.Bb5 Qf7 18.Kg2 a6 19.Ba4 b5 20.Bb3 Nb6 21.Rhd1 Re2 22.Rd3 Rae8 23.Bd2 R2e7 24.Bf4 Rd8 25.h4 h6 26.g4 h5 27.g5 Bc8 28.Kh2 Bf5 29.gxf6 gxf6 30.Re3 Kh7 31.Rce1 Re5 32.Rg1 Rxe3 33.fxe3 Nd7 34.e4 Bg6 35.Bd2 Ne5 36.Qe3 Qf8 37.Bc3 Re8 38.Rg3 f5 39.Qg5 f4 40.Rh3 Qf7 41.Kh1 c5 42.bxc5 Nd3 43.c6 Nf2+ 44.Kg2 Nxf3 45.Kxf3 Qa7 46.Qf6 Rg8 47.Bd4 Qc7 48.e5 Qa5 49.exd6 Qd2 50.Be5 Qe3 51.Bd1 Qd2 52.Bb3 Qe3 53.Bd1 Qc1 54.Qe7+ Kh6 55.Qf6 Kh7 56.d7 1–0

32nd North American Open (December 26-30)

Now in its thirty-second year, the North American Open has previously proven a welcome holiday destination for BC players and this year was no exception. Held at the Las Vegas hotel formerly named Bally's but now rebranded as the Horseshoe, some dozen players from this province were among the nine hundred plus tournament entrants, including Severo (Juni) Caluza, Don Hack, Winston Huang, Raymond Kaufman, Aiden Leong, Erwin Mok, Gillian Mok, Andrew Yu Qiu, Peter Yong Qiu, Dennis Haoze Wang, Nathan Ping-Ying Wu, Nicholas Pei-Chang Wu, and Aiden Zhou. In the U1900 Section Andrew Qiu's score of 5.5/7 was sufficient for him to tie for fifth place with five other players, worth \$560 each, but another half point would have seen him tie for first. And in the Open Section Aiden Zhou played four of the top ten finishers, all grandmasters, and drew with two of them. The overall winner was 'only' an FM, Jason Wang of Ohio, whose 7.5 points was enough for clear first. [Tournament website](#) [USCF crosstables](#)

Zhou, Aiden (2135) – Zhou, Jianchao (2558) [E10] North American op 32nd Las Vegas (2), 26.12.2022

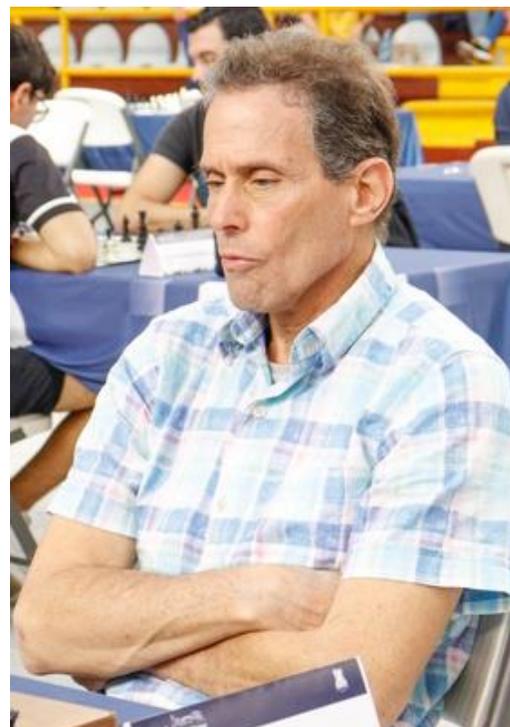
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Bd6 6.Bg2 c6 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Rd1 Ne4 10.Nc3 f5 11.Bf4 Bxf4 12.gxf4 b6 13.e3 Ba6 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Qa4 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bc4 17.Bf1 b5 18.Qb4 Nf6 19.Bxc4 bxc4 20.Ne5 Qc7 21.Rab1 Rfb8 22.Qa3 h6 23.f3 Kh7 24.Qc5 Rxb1 25.Rxb1 Rc8 26.Qb5 ½–½

Raja, Harshit (2457) – Zhou, Aiden (2135) [B10] North American op 32nd Las Vegas (3), 27.12.2022

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2 Nxe4 6.Qxe4 Qa5 7.Qf4 Qf5 8.Qe3 Qe6 9.b3 Qxe3+ 10.fxe3 a5 11.a4 Bf5 12.Bc4 Nd7 13.Bb2 Nb6 14.d3 f6 15.e4 Bd7 16.e5 Nxc4 17.bxc4 c5 18.0–0 f5 19.e6 Bxe6 20.Nh4 Rg8 21.Nxf5 g6 22.Ng3 Rc8 23.Ne4 Bh6 24.Rfe1 Kd7 25.Ba3 b6 26.Rab1 Rc6 27.Bc1 Bxc1 28.Rbxc1 h6 29.Rb1 Rf8 30.Re3 g5 31.Nd2 g4 32.Rbe1 Rf7 33.h3 Bf5 34.Rb1 gxf3 35.Nf3 Kc7 36.Rbe1 Rg6 37.Nh4 Rgg7 38.Nxf5 Rxf2+ 39.Kh1 Rxf5 40.Rxe7+ Kd8 41.Re8+ Kd7 42.R8e7+ Kd8 ½–½

43rd Metropolitano A (December 26-30)

After a number of events in the Southern Hemisphere IM Leon Piasetski travelled north of the Equator to participate in a tournament in Costa Rica. Held at the Polideportivo Monserrat sports complex in Alajuela, the forty-third edition of the Metropolitano Tournament attracted one hundred and eighty players in four sections plus a blitz event. The nineteen-player “A” Section included three GMs and four IMs in a mixed field which went as low as 1571; nine rounds were played to allow for norm possibilities, but with such a small field there was in some cases a 2.0 point difference between players paired together in the last rounds. Leon experienced a yo-yo effect, winning against lower-rated opponents and losing to those higher, with the exception of round seven when he drew against one of the subsequent tournament co-winners, IM Sergio Duran Vega (Costa Rica). The latter tied for first with GM Lelys Stanley Martinez Duany (Cuba) on 7.5 points, followed by the other two GMs, Deivy Vera Sigueñas (Peru) and Camilo Ernesto Gomez Garrido (Cuba), with 7.0 and 6.5 points respectively. Leon finished on 50%. [Standings](#)



Team match (December 22) from Penny Chess Club

On 22nd December, Penny Chess Club and Yeast Chess HK from Hong Kong co-hosted a Friendly Match online. Both clubs sent out teams of 4 to play in a rapid time format (15 + 10). Pham Thien Thanh, Brandon, Edric, and David represented Penny Chess Club. Rald, Jethro, Ian, and Lucas represented Yeast Chess HK. After games with intense positional and tactical battles, Penny Chess Club won the match with the score of 4 to 3. Coaches and students from both clubs had a good time discussing tactical and positional possibilities in the games after the match. Here are the results and a game from the match:

Tong, Rald (1538) – Pham Thien Thanh (1779) [C02] Live Chess Chess.com, 22.12.2022

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.a3 Qb6 6.Nf3 Nh6 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Bb2 Be7 10.Be2 0–0 11.0–0 Bd7 12.Re1 Rac8 13.Bd3 Nh6 14.Qd2 f6 15.b5 Na5 16.Ra2 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Rxc4 18.Nc3 Re8 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Ne5 Bxe5 21.Rxe5 Rxd4 22.Qe2 Rc4



23.Nxd5 exd5 24.Rxe8+ Kf7 25.Re7+ Kf8 26.Rxd7
 Re4 27.Qd2 Qxb5 28.Ra1 Qxd7 29.Rd1 Kf7 30.f3 Rc4
 31.Qf4+ Rxf4 0-1

Penny Chess Club	4 vs 3	Yeast Chess HK
babyninja73	♖ 1 - 0 ♜ ♜ 1 - 0 ♖	A3kwu
humblebeginnings64	♜ 0 - 1 ♖ ♖ 0 - 1 ♜	Jethro_1
edricwww	♜ 0 - 1 ♖ ♖ 1 - 0 ♜	yiklamlee
Davidsong789	♖ 1 - 0 ♜	LucasChoi1

16th SPICE Cup Open (December 18-23)

This year's SPICE (Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence) Cup was held in Chesterfield, Missouri (a western suburb of St. Louis) just before Christmas. The nine-round, seventy-seven player event included a number of Canadians: GM Razvan Preotu, IM Mark Plotkin, WGM Maili-Jade Ouellet, and FM Victor Plotkin, along with IM Ray Kaufman and IM-elect Max Gedajlovic from this province. Taking first overall were GMs Awonder Liang (USA), Aram Hakobyan (Armenia), and Abhimanyu Mishra (USA, current holder of the record for youngest GM at 12 years, 4 months and 25 days) with 7.0 points. Top Canadian was Razvan Preotu on 5.5, Mark Plotkin and Max both scored 4.5 (but Max didn't play the last round), everyone else mentioned above finished with 4.0 points. [Standings](#)

Gledura, Benjamin (2644) – Gedajlovic, Max (2398) [E28] SPICE Cup op 16th Chesterfield (2.2), 19.12.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7.f3 c5 8.e4 Nc6 9.Be3 Qc7 10.Bd3 b6
 11.Qe2 e5 12.d5 Ne7 13.Qd2 Nh5 14.g4 Nf4 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.Ne2 Ng6 17.Nxf4 Ne5 18.0-0 Qe7
 19.Ng2 Qf6 20.Kh1 Re8 21.Rae1 g5 22.Be2 Ng6 23.Bd1 Ba6 24.Ne3 Qf4 25.Ba4 Re7 26.Qf2 Rd8

27.Qg3 Qf6 28.Rc1 Re5 29.Bc6 Bc8 30.a4 Nf4 31.Rb1 Re7 32.Rb3 Kg7 33.a5 Rh8 34.axb6 axb6
35.Rxb6 h5 36.Rb8 Ra7 37.Rxc8 Rxc8 38.gxh5 Kh7 39.Qg4 ½–½

**Kaufman, Raymond (2174) – Javidfard, Amirsalar (2000) [B40] SPICE Cup op 16th
Chesterfield (3.37), 19.12.2022**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.e5 Ne4 7.Qg4 Nxc3 8.a3 Bf8 9.bxc3 Qa5
10.Qg3 d6 11.Nb5 d5 12.Bd2 Qd8 13.Bd3 a6 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.Qxg7 Bxe5 16.Qxe5 f6 17.Qh5+
Ke7 18.0–0 Nc6 19.Rfe1 e5 20.Rab1 Kd6 21.Be3 b5 22.a4 bxa4 23.Bb6 Qe8 24.Qh4 Qe6 25.f4
Bd7 26.fxe5+ fxe5 27.c4 Qe7 28.c5+ Ke6 29.Qg4+ 1–0

**Abrahamyan, Tatev (2312) – Gedajlovic, Max (2398) [C55] SPICE Cup op 16th Chesterfield
(6.14), 21.12.2022**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0–0 Be7 7.Re1 f6 8.a4 Bg4 9.c3 Qd7 10.a5
a6 11.b4 0–0 12.h3 Be6 13.Qb3 Bf7 14.Be3 b5 15.axb6 cxb6 16.Nbd2 b5 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Qc2
Rfc8 19.Qb1 Nd8 20.c4 Bc6 21.c5 Ne6 22.Ne4 Rd8 23.Rd1 Qb7 24.Qa2 Bd5 25.Qc2 Rac8
26.Ned2 f5 27.Nxe5 f4 28.Ndf3 fxe3 29.fxe3 Bf6 30.d4 Ng5 31.Nxg5 Bxg5 32.Re1 Bf6 33.Ng4 Bh4
34.Re2 Re8 35.Kh2 Re4 36.Ne5 Bf6 37.Ng4 Bg5 38.Rae1 Qc7+ 39.Kg1 Qg3 40.Nh2 Bxe3+ 0–1

Bobby Fischer and Iceland

Last summer Craig Bacon, who runs the chess club in Salmon Arm, went on holiday to Iceland:

“Whilst there, I had the opportunity of visiting the grave of Bobby Fischer, the [Bobby Fischer Center](#) and the Reykjavik Chess club. The Bobby Fischer Center is a heritage museum, dedicated to Bobby Fischer. This museum is open to the public, and sells Bobby Fischer paraphernalia. I believe that the table on display was used in the Spassky v Fischer World Championship Match in Iceland. The Bobby Fischer Center also runs a small weekly chess club.

The Reykjavik Chess Club is an old and established chess club, steeped in tradition. They also meet once a week, and play a 10-minute tournament with increments, every second week. This event is quite popular and attracts about forty entries. Guests are welcome to join in this friendly environment.”

Many thanks to Craig for kindly allowing his photos to be shared with bulletin readers; due to file size restraints they may be found on this [webpage](#).



HOWARD WU CAPTURES 2023 VICTORIA CHAMPIONSHIP by Paul Leblanc



National Master Howard Wu returned to tournament chess after a three-year hiatus with a convincing 5.5–0.5 score, capturing the Victoria Championship at the head of a field of fifty-eight local players. The event was held at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney over the weekend of 14-15 January. Wu surrendered a single draw to Scott Gray. Top rated Zulfikar Sali tied for second place with Trevor Yonkman. Sali was knocked out of contention for first place in a round four upset game against John Turner who returned to the chess scene after a twenty-five year break. Top U1400 prize went to William Li who seems to have made a breakthrough in his chess. We look forward to seeing this young fellow's progress. Top U1000 winner was Ninad Mengle and Top Unrated player was Taylor McLean.



Round 6, board 1. Elliot Lupini vs Howard Wu

The tournament format was three games per day on Saturday and Sunday with time control of game in one hour with 30 second increments. This allowed for a break of approximately one hour between rounds and a start time of 10am and finish time of 9pm. Tournament Director was National Arbiter Nigel Hanrahan and the event was organized by Paul Leblanc of Victoria Chess. [Standings](#)

Wu, Howard (2051) – Turner, John (1853) [B08] Victoria Ch (5.1), 15.01.2023

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Bd3 dxc5 8.0–0 Nfd7?!

Unnecessarily giving up the d5 square. 8...0–0 is better. **9.Nd5 e6 10.Bd2 Qd8 11.Nc3 a6 12.a4 Nc6 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Qd2 h6 15.Bf4 Nce5 16.Be2 Nxf3+ 17.Bxf3 Ne5 18.Be2 Bd7 19.Rfd1 Rd8 20.Qe3 Ke7? 20...g5 21.Bg3 0–0 is better. 21.Bg3** Not a bad move, but 21.Rd5 b6 22.a5 is a much more direct way to exploit the advantage. **21...Bc8 22.f4?** This allows black to complicate the position. The preparatory 22.Kh1 was better. **22...Nc4 23.Qf3 23.Bxc4? Bd4 24.Rxd4 cxd4** is better for Black. Now time pressure sets in for both sides. **23...Bd4+ 24.Kh2 Nd6 25.f5 Qc6 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.Qg4 g5 28.Bf3 Qe8**



29.e5? Any other move that doesn't give up f5 for the Black knight is better. The advantage is now unclear. **29...Nf5 30.Ne4?** Black is now clearly better. 30.Ne2 Ne3 31.Qe4 is unclear despite Black being up the exchange. **30...Ne3 31.Qh5 Qxh5 32.Bxh5 Nxd1 33.Rxd1 b6 34.Nd6 Rh7?** This gives White a chance, as the Black pieces are awkward; 34... Rhf8 was better. **35.c3 Be3 36.Rf1 Bd7 37.Nc4 b5?** Time pressure. Now White is winning. 37...Bf4 38.Rxf4 Be8! (38...gxf4? 39.Bh4+) 39.Rf6 is about equal. **38.Nxe3 bxa4 39.Ng4 Rb8 40.Rf2 Rhh8 41.Nf6 Rhf8 42.Rd2 Rbd8 43.Bf2 Rxf6 44.Bxc5# 1–0**

On the right Howard Wu can be seen holding the Victoria Cup; for its history see [Bulletin #405](#).

2022 IN REVIEW

The end/beginning of the year is often a time for reflection and review of the events that occurred in the previous twelve months. With this in mind, here is a list of BC tournament winners for 2022,

along with a few other highlights. Notably this list is considerably longer than last year – since returning to live chess new organizers have appeared and a large amount of chess has been played ...

Richmond Open – Paris Dorn

BC Open – Keith MacKinnon

Victoria Championship – Patrick Huang

BC vs. Nova Scotia Scholastic Match – 32.5-15.5 to BC

Grand Pacific Open – Amirsalar Javidfard, Neil Doknjas, John Doknjas

Canadian Women's Zonal – Veronica (Yu Han) Guo (third)

Intermat – 29.0-23.0 for WA

BC-Alberta match – 40.5-24.5 for BC; Okanagan Open – Zachary Liu

Paul Keres Memorial – Georgi Orlov, Raymond Kaufman, Dietmar Kolbus, Keith Mackinnon,
Jorge Nunez Asencio

Stan Rogers Memorial – Ryan Yang

Vancity Rapid 1 – Raymond Kaufman

Sunday Metro Vancouver – Quang Long Le and Joe Roback

BC-WA match – 49.0-26.0 for BC; Canada Day Open – Brandon Zhu, Jerry Wang, Louis Cheng,
Matthew He

Vancity Rapid 2 – Max Gedajlovic and Jorge Nunez Asencio

BC Senior Championship – Arpak Worya and Mayo Fuentesbella

BC Day Open – Kate Jiang

In Memoriam Harry Moore (28 April 1954 – 4 August 2022)

Chennai Women's Olympiad – Veronica (Yu Han) Guo 7.0/11 on board 4; WFM title

Vancity Rapid 3 – Joshua Doknjas

Langley Open – John Doknjas and Brian McLaren

Vancity Rapid 4 – Raymond Kaufman

BC Championship – Raymond Kaufman and Keith MacKinnon

Jack Taylor Memorial – Zachary Liu, Johan Aljo, Ryan Yang

In Memoriam Lynn Stringer (13 April 1928 – 17 October 2022)

Vancity Rapid 5 - Joshua Doknjas, Raymond Kaufman, Mayo Fuentebella, Jorge Nunez Asencio

Chigorin CC Online Invitational – Raymond Kaufman

BC Junior Championship – Aiden Zhou and Kate Jiang

Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss – Paul Leblanc

Vancity Rapid 6 – Leo Qu

Fraser Valley Rapid 1 – Jorge Nunez Asencio

Vancity Multi-week Classical – Zachary Liu

IM title for Max Gedajlovic

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Raphael U1500 & U2000 Blitz

Langley, February 5

[Details](#)

Vancity Rapid February

Richmond, February 14

[Details](#)

BC Open

Richmond, February 18-20

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 3

Langley, February 25

[Details](#)

Vancity Rapid March

Richmond, March 5

[Details](#)

BCYCC

Burnaby, March 18-19

[Details](#)

16th Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, April 7-10

[Details](#)

Okanagan Open

Salmon Arm, May 5-7

[Details](#)

BC-Alberta Match

Salmon Arm, May 5-7

[Details](#)

47th Keres Memorial

Richmond, May 20-22

[Details](#)