

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #433

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

Vancity Rapid February (February 12)



Vancity Chess returned to the Banquet Hall of the Thompson Community Centre in Richmond for their February rapid tournament, the second in the ongoing seasonal and year-long league where points from individual events are accumulated, Grand Prix style, for rewards further down the road. For details see the Vancity [website](#). In the twenty-nine player Open Section there were five players rated over 2000 including IMs Vicente Lee Jr. and Raymond Kaufman, NM Mayo Fuentebella and CM Jorge Nunez Asencio, but it was sixth-ranked Johan Aljo who stole the headlines. The first two rounds proceeded as expected but in round three both the IMs lost, to Jorge and Johan respectively. This result was repeated in round five when Jorge and Johan each beat the other IM they hadn't previously played, this time with the black pieces. A draw against each other in the last round left them both tied for first with 5.5/6, with Jorge receiving the trophy on tiebreak. Alone in third was Mayo Fuentebella whose only loss was to Jorge in round four.

Ties were also the order of the day in the forty-seven player U1400 Section: Owen Yuen and Jimmy Zhang both scored 5.5 points, Owen getting the nod on tiebreak, while there was also a tie for third between Sherlynn Fung and Jordan Zhu. 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](#)

Victoria Chess Club Rapid Fundraiser (February 11)



Uptown Mall Community Meeting Room (photo by Marc Moisan)

The Victoria Chess Club held a one-day Rapid chess tournament on February 11. These events have proven to be quite popular, with the previous November 26 event sold out and this one as well. We were fortunate to be allowed to use the Uptown Mall community meeting room once again. The space will only hold eighteen players and suffers a little bit of background noise from the shoppers walking by outside or rolling their shopping carts to their cars. On the plus side we were able to hook our laptop up to the audio-visual display to display pairings and standings and we recruited at least one passer-by for the club.

Alex Webb emerged victorious, defeating the pre-tournament favourite John Turner in a tense time scramble in the last round and finishing with a 5.0-0.0 score. [Crosstable](#)



John Turner vs Alex Webb (photo by Paul Leblanc)

When asked about the game, Alex admitted that he was under pressure positionally throughout the game but worked hard to hang on and was rewarded when his opponent succumbed to time

pressure. Alex is relatively new to chess with just four rated tournaments under his belt but he has been playing casual chess since he was a kid and loves the competition. Ninad Mengle went undefeated and finished clear second with a very solid score of 4.0-1.0. Just over \$300 was raised for the Victoria Chess Club. Marc Moisan did his usual excellent job as Tournament Director.

Continuing adventures in South America

Floripa is the local name for Florianópolis, the capital of the southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina. The [9th Floripa Open](#) (January 23-29) was more of a chess festival, with additional blitz, team, age-restricted and simultaneous events in addition to the five hundred and fifty-player Open. Apart from the peripatetic IM Leon Piasetski there was also another entrant with connections to this province, the 1999 BC Champion FM Marcel Milat. A long-time denizen of Seattle, Marcel also competed in the Chessable Sunway Sitges Festival in Spain last December. The Floripa Open saw a three-way tie for first between GM Alan Pichot (Argentina), IM Diego Rafael Di Berardino (Brazil), and GM Sandro Mareco (Argentina) with 8.5 out of 11, closely followed by nine other players a half-point back. Leon finished with 6.5 points but did not play three of the games, Marcel withdrew after four games when he was on 50%.



Piasetski then travelled even further south for the [6th Marcel Duchamp Cup](#) (February 3-11), held in Montevideo, Uruguay. (It will be remembered Leon played in an event in Rio de Janeiro in December, also named in honour of Duchamp – obviously a popular figure in that area of the world.) The one hundred and thirty-three player tournament was won by four-time Brazilian Champion GM Alexandr Fier with 7.5/9; readers might remember Fier from the 2016 edition of the Grand Pacific Open. Leon scored 6.0 points and was the top finisher in the 65+ category. [ChessBase report](#)

Peroza, Eduardo Antunes (2053) – Piasetski, Leon David (2210) [B07] Floripa op 9th Florianopolis (4.31), 25.01.2023

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.e5 Ne4 6.Bd3 Nxc3 7.Qd2 g6 8.Nf3 Bh6 9.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 10.bxc3 Nd7 11.Kf2 Nb6 12.g3 Bg4 13.a4 Nd5 14.Bd2 Bxf3 15.Kxf3 dxe5 16.dxe5 e6 17.Rab1 0–0–0 18.Rb3 Rd7 19.Rhb1 Kb8 20.a5 Ka8 21.c4 Ne7 22.Be3 a6 23.g4 Nc8 24.Be4 Na7 25.Rd3 Rhd8 26.Rbd1 Rxd3 27.Rxd3 Rxd3 28.cxd3 Bf8 29.Bb6 c5 30.Bc7 Nc8 31.h4 Ka7 32.h5 gxh5 33.g5 b5 34.Kg3 b4 35.Kh4 b3 36.Kxh5 b2 37.d4 cxd4 38.Bd8 Be7 39.Bc7 d3 40.Bxd3 Kb7 41.Bd6 Nxd6 42.exd6 Bxd6 43.Be4+ Kc7 44.Kg4 Bb4 45.Bxh7 Bxa5 46.Bb1 Kd6 47.f5 Bc3 48.fxe6 fxe6 49.Kh5 Kc5 50.Ba2 a5 51.Kg4 a4 52.Kf3 Kb4 53.Ke4 Bg7 54.Kd3 Ka3 55.Bb1 Kb3 56.c5 a3 57.c6 a2 58.Bc2+ Kb4 59.c7 b1Q 60.c8Q Qf1+ 61.Kd2 Qf4+ 62.Kd3 Qf3+ 63.Kd2 Bc3+ 0–1

Salguero, Rafael (1921) – Piasetski, Leon David (2217) [E47] Marcel Duchamp Cup 6th Montevideo (9.16), 11.02.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0–0 5.Bd3 Re8 6.Nge2 d6 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 e5 9.0–0 e4 10.Bc2 c6 11.d5 Bf5 12.b4 c5 13.Bb2 Nbd7 14.Nb5 Ne5 15.bxc5 dxc5 16.Bxe5 Rxe5 17.Qd2 Qd7 18.a4 a6 19.Nc3 Rae8 20.Rab1 Bg4 21.f3 exf3 22.gxf3 Bh3 23.Rfe1 Rg5+ 24.Kh1 Bg2+ 25.Qxg2 Rxg2 26.Kxg2 Re5 27.Ne4 Nxe4 28.Bxe4 Rg5+ 29.Kh1 Qh3 30.f4 Rh5 31.Rb2 f5 32.Bd3 Rh6 33.a5 Qg3 34.Rf1 Qxe3 35.Bxf5 Kf8 36.Kg2 Qd4 37.Rc2 b5 38.axb6 Rxb6 39.Bxh7 g6 40.f5 Qe4+ 41.Kg1 Qxc2 42.fxg6+ Kg7 43.Rf7+ Kh6 44.g7 Rb1+ 45.Rf1 Kxh7 0–1

Raphael U1500 & U2000 Blitz (February 5)



On February 5 the [Fraser Valley Chess Club](#) hosted two blitz events at their location, the Raphael Family Support Center in Langley. Starting at 10am was the U1500 Blitz, which attracted twenty-six players to the ten-round Swiss. Lucas Li was the clear winner with 8.0 points, just ahead of organizer Banatwala in second on tiebreak over Lucas Yao. Then in the afternoon it was the U2000 division, fifteen entrants also competing in a ten-round Swiss. Here Zachary Liu and Johan Aljo tied for first with 9.5 points each (they drew with each other), Zachary getting the nod on the second tiebreak; there was also a tie for third between Kendrick Rojas and Zhengyu Chen well back on 7.0/10, resolved in favour of Kendrick.

Registration is already open for various Fraser Valley events during Spring Break and thereafter, see their [tournament schedule](#) for details. [U1500](#) [U2000](#)

Vancity Chess Rapid Championship (February 5)

Beginning in June, last year Vancity ran six rapid events. To decide an overall champion for 2022, eight of the top finishers from last year's event were invited to compete in a knockout championship at UBC on February 5. Each match consisted of two games at 15 + 10, any tie to be broken by an Armageddon game. In the Quarterfinals FM John Doknjas, NM Mayo Fuentesbella, FM Joshua Doknjas and IM Raymond Kaufman faced Will Beattie, Leo Qu, Andrew Rankin and Ashton Taylor respectively.

In each case the titled player won, with the exception of the second match where Leo Qu ousted Mayo Fuentebella. The semi-finals pitted Qu against John Doknjas while Joshua battled Raymond Kaufman; John and Raymond won and met in the final, where John emerged victorious 2-0. John Doknjas is thus the first to have his name engraved on the Vancity Knight Trophy – if you want your shot at immortality, collect points in the current [Vancity Rapid League](#) and you could be competing in the championship next December. [Bracket and results](#)



Tyler Sanderson, Murray Chu, and Mats Philipzig with John Doknjas (photo by Victoria Doknjas)

Chess as a sport petition

A petition graphic for recognizing chess as a sport in Canada. It features a red maple leaf logo, the word 'PETITION' in a red and white banner, and the text 'RECOGNIZE CHESS AS A SPORT IN CANADA!' in large white and red letters. Below the text is a QR code with the text 'Scan Me!' and a right-pointing arrow. The background is a blurred image of a chessboard with several pieces.

Currently the Government of Canada does not recognize chess as a sport, despite it being considered a sport by the International Olympic Committee and many countries around the world. As a result, the Government of Canada excludes chess from sports funding programs. If you would like to see this change, please electronically sign the petition linked below before April 1:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4283>

GREATER VANCOUVER TOURNAMENT I (January 20-22)



One of the new chess organizations in the Lower Mainland is the [Penny Chess Club](#), founded and operated by WIM Bich Ngoc Pham. Last June the club ran its first tournament with longer time controls, Sunday Metro Vancouver Chess, held as a four-round Swiss on consecutive Sundays. The club has now hosted its first major open event, a five-round Swiss on the weekend of January 20-22 at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby which attracted one hundred and seventy-one players.

The twenty-four player Premier Section included six masters and a baker's dozen over 2000, headed by IMs Quang Long Le and Raymond Kaufman. Both drew in the second round, to Zachary Liu and Paris Dorn respectively, setting up the fairy tale last-round clash between them. Long won and claimed first prize with 4.5/5. Second was CM Jorge Nunez Asencio, whose first-round bye provided Long with his margin of victory, while third on tiebreak was Kaufman ahead of NM Neil Doknjas, Zachary Liu, and Jingyun (Ryan) Yang. Apart from cash prizes there were also medals for the best boy and girl finishers by two-year age groups; for the Premier these were Zachary Liu, Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, Andrew Xu, and Kate Jiang.

Erwin Mok gave up a last-round draw in scoring 4.5 to win the thirty-seven player U1800 Section; second was Zhengyu Chen on tiebreak from Richard Ingram who placed third. Top unrated was Ihor Boiko who was also awarded a medal along with Zachary Chua, Justin Gao, Alex Zou, and Hannah Xu. The U1000 Section was so large it was further split into A and B divisions. Both resulted in three-way ties on 4.5 points, the ubiquitous winning score in this tournament. After

tiebreaks were applied Martin Lorenz, Micah Chow, and Malcolm McKean won the place prizes in U1000A and medals went to Samuel Xu, Aiden Yin, Brady Li, Jayce Li, Andre Dossa, Sophia Wang, Karen Chen, Sabrina Gao, and May Wanglou. In U1000B Larry Yang placed first ahead of Ryan Golchin and William Bowman, and Sky Cui, Lucas Wong, Aiden Lu, Brandon Yu, Tom Dai, Tiffany Ta, and Sarah Lu received medals. [Greater Vancouver Tournament II](#) is already planned for the weekend of June 3-4, registration is open. Crosstables [Premier U1800 U1000A U1000B Complete list of prizewinners](#)



Bich Ngoc Pham, Jorge Nunez Asencio, Quang Long Le

MY MOST PAINFUL LOSS by Duncan Haines

Recently a YouTube clickbait headline caught my attention: [My Most Painful Loss - GMHikaru](#). Instantly I "knew" and, sure enough, the video was Hikaru Nakamura's painful reliving of his game versus Magnus Carlsen at the Zürich Chess Challenge 2014. I was especially interested because I had watched this game live online, amazed at what occurred. Hikaru describes achieving a huge advantage; finally, after ten losses, he was going to win his first classical game against Magnus

and be in a great position to win this part of the event. However, it all fell apart and he suffered a crushing loss. Then that night, for the first time in his life, Hikaru says he was unable to sleep; enduring five hours of non-stop thinking, over and over, about one position. Unable to recover, he very quickly lost the next day's game to Levon Aronian. Near the end of the video Hikaru recovers from these painful memories and, with the smile back on his face and the twinkle in his eyes restored, he remembers finally getting a classical chess win against Magnus a few years later. I am sure many chess players, regardless of rating, have experienced something similar. I was totally able to relate to what Hikaru experienced due to a game of mine from the 2012 Canadian Open. Playing in the U1600 section, I started with three wins, lost a game, then won my next three. Had I won this round eight game, I would have been a full point clear going into the last round, ready to receive a prized trophy. Want to test your tactical ability? Hide my commentary then set up and analyze the diagrammed positions below.

Haines, Duncan (1434) – Campbell, Jamie (1582) [A30] CAN op 49th U1600 Victoria (8.62), 12.07.2012

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.g3 Nf6 5.Bg2 g6 6.0–0 Bg7 7.d3 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bd2 e6 10.Qc1 0–0 11.Bh6 Qf6 12.Bxg7 Qxg7 13.Nxd5 exd5 14.e3 This is only my second tournament after a 35 year hiatus from chess so my opening play is rather innocuous. **14...Na6 15.d4 Rac8 16.Qd2 Qf6 17.Rfc1 c4 18.b3 Rc7?! 19.Ne5 b5 20.a4 Rfc8? 21.axb5** Just four moves after playing the committal 17... c4 Black is in big trouble. **21...c3 22.Qe2 Nb4 23.Rxa7 Qd6 24.Bh3! Ra8 25.Rxa8+ Bxa8 26.Nd7!?**



I played this after a long think. The ever accurate computer sacs a piece after 26.Qe1 f6. Should a 1400 player be expected to see this? 26.Qe1 f6 27.Rxc3 Rxc3 28.Qxc3 fxe5 29.dxe5+– **26...c2** 26...Rxd7 27.Bxd7 Qxd7 28.Rxc3 The keys are that Black's knight is trapped and the a8 bishop is vulnerable. After White plays Rc1, Ra1 etc. loss of material cannot be delayed for long. This I could see. **27.Nc5 Qb6 28.Bf1 Qa5 29.Qe1** I wanted to threaten Ra1 but, naturally, the computer points out that Qd2 followed by Qc3 is far more effective. **29...Qa3**



And here we are at the first of two critical positions.

30.b6 30.Ra1 Na2 31.Nd3 c1Q 32.Nxc1 Rxc1 is what I calculated at move 30 but I failed to find... 33.Rxa2!+- Paralyzed by seeing my queen under attack, I abandoned this line.

30...Rc6



31.Bd3?? 31.Ra1 When I played 30.b6 it was because I was now able to make 31.Ra1 work. 31...Na2 32.Nd3 c1Q 33.Nxc1 Rxc1 34.Qxc1! OK, not really an exclamation move because again I fail to see 34.Rxa2! but White is winning this time. 34...Qxc1 35.Rxc1 Nxc1 36.Ba6 White regains the piece and with two extra pawns should have no trouble winning this endgame. I had this all calculated when playing 30.b6. However, instead of playing 31.Ra1 as intended, I went into a "long think, wrong think" and, with time ticking down, my tired, inexperienced brain impulsively decided to directly go after Black's c2 pawn. Little did I know... **31...Rxc5+-** Ouch!! Nothing to do but resign, sigh...

The start time for this game was 6pm so by the time I arrived home it was after 10. Quick look at the game via computer. White is +3 at move 29. I expected that so what did I miss? Computer reveals 33.Rxa2. Start kicking myself. Position now etched in my mind. Go to bed, try to sleep. Tossed and turned and replayed the critical variation countless times in my mind. No sleep at all. Last round game is at 10am. Arrive to play; tired, in a bad mood, still obsessed with last night's game. Playing White against Kai Richardson. Came up with a lousy plan in the early middlegame and then blundered a piece on move 20. Resigned. No trophy for me. To finish my comparison with Hikaru's experience, while risking a little self aggrandizement, better days were ahead for me in the next several years; three trophies won, 500 rating points gained. Haven't lost any sleep over a game since then, despite making a gazillion game losing blunders. Some of the pain from this game mitigated. Some... **0-1**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Vancity Rapid March

UBC, March 5

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Spring Break Rapid

Langley, March 16

[Details](#)

BCYCC

Burnaby, March 18-19

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Spring Break Classical

Langley, March 21 and 23

[Details](#)

16th Grand Pacific Open

Victoria, April 7-10

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Women and Senior Open

Langley, April 15

[Details](#)

8th Stan Rogers Memorial

Chilliwack, April 22

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 4

Langley, April 29

[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](#)

Greater Vancouver Tournament II

Burnaby, June 3-4

[Details](#)