

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #439

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

Las Vegas International Chess Festival (June 14-18)

Held at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino, the festival consists of various tournaments but its flagship event is the National Open; with these large American class events it is hard to establish exact numbers because of re-entries, but it appears the National Open set a new attendance record with participation in the region of eleven hundred. Among the smattering of Canadians were Keith MacKinnon and Ethan Song (Open Section), Elliot McCallum (U2100), and Gillian Mok (US Women's Open) from this province; they scored 4.5/9, 3.5/9, 2.0/7 and 3.0/5 respectively. There was a four-way tie for the overall first place between GMs Illia Nyzhnyk (Ukraine), Vasif Durarbayli (Azerbaijan), Yaser Quesada (Cuba), and Mikhail Antipov (Russia), each received \$4,625.00.

[Festival website](#)

Song, Ethan (2062) – Cordova, Emilio (2543) [B23] National op Las Vegas (1.9), 14.06.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.a4 e6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Qc7 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0–0 h5 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.f4 Bc5+ 11.Kh1 d6 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Qxe5 14.Bf4 Qd4 15.Qe1 h4 16.Rd1 Qb4 17.Be5 Be7 18.Rf4 Qa5 19.Bf3 Nd5 20.Bxd5 cxd5 21.Bxg7 Rg8 22.Bf6 Bxf6 23.Rxf6 h3 24.Nxd5 Qxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Rxc2 26.Nc7+ Ke7 27.Nd5+ Kf8 28.Nf4 Rg4 29.Nxe6+ Ke7 30.Nc5+ Kxf6 31.a5 Bf5 32.b4 Rc8 33.Rf1 Kg6 34.Re1 Bxc2 35.Re2 Ba4 36.b5 Bxb5 37.Re1 Bc6+ 0–1



16th Teplice Open (June 10-18)

Teplice is the Czech Republic's second largest spa town and lies just across the border, directly south of Dresden. Site of an important tournament in 1922 won by Richard Réti and Rudolf Spielmann (when the town was known as Teplitz-Schönau), since 2006 Teplice has been the site of an annual international open. This year's event, the second since the pandemic, attracted two hundred and eighteen players, ninety-six of them titled. GM Frederik Svane, Danish by birth but now representing Germany, was the clear winner with 7.5/9, a half-point ahead of GMs Shant

Sargsyan (Armenia), Evgeny Romanov (Norway), and Frederik's elder brother Rasmus Svane (Germany), and IMs Evgenios Ioannidis (Greece) and Yahli Sokolovsky (Israel). Also in the field were BC IMs Max Gedajlovic and Leon Piasetski who performed more or less to their rating expectations, scoring 6.0 and 5.0 points respectively. [Crosstable](#)

Kubiczek, Michal (2065) – Piasetski, Leon (2224) [E11] Teplice op 16th Teplice (7.42), 16.06.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7 5.Bg2 d5 6.Nf3 0–0 7.0–0 c6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.Bf4 h6 10.Rd1 a5 11.Nbd2 Nh5 12.Be3 Bd6 13.Ne1 f5 14.Nd3 f4 15.Nxf4 Bxf4 16.Bxf4 Nxf4 17.gxf4 Rxf4 18.Nf1 Nf6 19.e3 Rh4 20.Nd2 Bd7 21.Nf3 Rh5 22.Ne5 Rxe5 23.dxe5 Ng4 24.Rd4 Nxe5 25.cxd5 exd5 26.Kh1 Qf6 27.Rf4 Qd6 28.Rg1 Be8 29.Bh3 Bg6 30.Bf5 Bh5 31.Rg3 Kh8 32.h3 g5 33.Rd4 Bf3+ 34.Kg1 Rf8 35.Bd3 Qf6 36.Ra4 Bd1 37.Qxd1 Qxf2+ 38.Kh1 Qxg3 39.Qh5 Qe1+ 40.Kg2 Rf2+ 41.Kg3 Qg1# 0–1

The Stonewall structure brings to mind the following classic, winner of the third(!) brilliancy prize in the original tournament:

Maróczy, Géza – Tartakower, Saviely [A85] Teplitz-Schönau (4), 05.10.1922

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.a3 Be7 5.e3 0–0 6.Bd3 d5 7.Nf3 c6 8.0–0 Ne4 9.Qc2 Bd6 10.b3 Nd7 11.Bb2 Rf6 12.Rfe1 Rh6 13.g3 Qf6 14.Bf1 g5 15.Rad1 g4 16.Nxe4 fxe4 17.Nd2



18...Rhx2 18.Kxh2 Qxf2+ 19.Kh1 Nf6 20.Re2 Qxg3 21.Nb1 Nh5 22.Qd2 Bd7 23.Rf2 Qh4+ 24.Kg1 Bg3 25.Bc3 Bxf2+ 26.Qxf2 g3 27.Qg2 Rf8 28.Be1 Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 e5 30.Kg1 Bg4 31.Bxg3 Nxg3 32.Re1 Nf5 33.Qf2 Qg5 34.dxe5 Bf3+ 35.Kf1 Ng3+ 0–1

Gedajlovic, Max (2436) – Mica, Marek (2284) [D35] Teplice op 16th Teplice (8.20), 17.06.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Be6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.f4 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.f5 Bxf5 11.Bxf5 gxh4 12.Nf3 Bd6 13.0–0 Qe7 14.Qd3 0–0–0 15.Nxh4 Ng4 16.Bxg4 Qxh4 17.Bh3 Kb8 18.Rxf7 Rhf8 19.Raf1 Rxf7 20.Rxf7 Nf6 21.Qf1 Ne4 22.g3 Qg5 23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Qf2 c5 25.Rf5 Qe7 26.d5 Rf8 27.Kg2 Kc7 28.Qc2 Rxf5 29.Bxf5 h5 30.Kh3 Qg7 31.b3 h4 32.gxh4 Qg1 33.Qe2 Be5 34.Bxe4 Kd6 35.h5 b5 36.h6 c4 37.bxc4 bxc4 38.h7 Kc5 39.d6 Kxd6 40.Qd2+ Ke7 41.Qb4+ Kf7 42.Qxc4+ Ke7 43.Qb4+ Kf7 44.Qb7+ Kf8 45.Qa8+ Ke7 46.Qxa7+ Ke6 47.Bd5+ Kxd5 48.e4+ 1–0

1000GM Las Vegas Super Swiss (June 8-12)

The latest norm tournament run by the [1000GM](#) organization was held in Las Vegas just before the National Open and took advantage of some of the talent arriving to play in that event. The eleven GMs and fourteen IMs in the seventy-two player field were headed by Hans Moke Neimann (remember him? Apparently a FIDE report on the Neimann/Carlsen incident has been completed but won't be released until October, in the hopes that Neimann's civil suit will be concluded by then) who duly tied for first with GM Mikhail Antipov (Russia) with 7.0/9, just ahead of IM Josiah Stearman (USA), GM Jianchao Zhou (China), GM Semen Khanin (Russia), and GM Ilya Nyzhnyk (Ukraine). Also participating were Canadians Patrick Tolentino, Paris Dorn, and from this province Tristan Taylor; they finished with 3.5, 3.5, and 2.5 points respectively. [Crosstable](#)

Moreby, James (2350) – Taylor, Tristan (1908) [A34] 1000GM Vegas Super Swiss Las Vegas USA (2.21), 09.06.2023

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 g6 7.Ba3 Qa5 8.Qb3 Bg7 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bc4 0–0 11.0–0 b5 12.Bd5 c4 13.Qb2 Bc6 14.Bxc6 Nxc6 15.Nd4 Bxd4 16.exd4 b4 17.Bxb4 Nxb4 18.cxb4 Qd5 19.d3 Rac8 20.Rac1 cxd3 21.Rc5 Rxc5 22.dxc5 a5 23.a3 axb4 24.axb4 Ra8 25.h3 Ra2 26.Qb1 Ra3 27.Qc1 Ra2 28.Qb1 Rc2 29.Qa1 d2 30.Rd1 Qc4 31.Kh2 Rc1 32.Qa4 Rxd1 33.Qxd1 Qc1 34.Qxd2 0–1

Canadian School Teams Championship (June 11)

This year FIDE has inaugurated a brand new competition, a World Schools Team Championship, the final of which will be held in Kazakhstan on August 3-8. The preliminary stage consists of national championships, and for Canada this was held on June 11 in a hybrid format (online play supervised by an onsite arbiter) on the lichess platform. Teams were comprised of five players from the same educational institution and competed in two categories, under twelve and under eighteen. Ten teams entered the U18 Category, including four from BC: Elgin Park Secondary (Peter Yong Qiu, Jackie Hao, Arthur Zhang, Owen Wang, Ariel Sun), Semiahmoo Secondary (Andrew Yu Qiu, Kairui (Alex) Bi, Elaine Fan, Nico Xiao Huang, Andy Guo), Semiahmoo Secondary B (Jashandeep Singh, Samuel Zhu, Nick Zhang, Leon Ren, John Wang), and University Hill Secondary (Ethan Su, Kaiqi Qin, David Eirew, Sutong Wang, Ryan Tomilin).

1 Upper Canada 5 (20.5/25)	6 Renert C 2 (14)
2 Zion Heights 4 (17.5)	7 Westmount 2 (10.5)
3 Semiahmoo 3.5 (15.5)	8 Renert B 1 (8)
4 University Hill 3 (15)	9 Renert A 1 (6.5)
5 Elgin Park 2.5 (12)	10 Semiahmoo B 1 (5.5)

In the end Upper Canada College (Toronto) dominated the section, winning all of their matches (main scoring was by match points, rather than game points). Zion Heights placed second, losing only to Upper Canada, and Semiahmoo Secondary was third. The majority of the top scorers attended Upper Canada or Zion Heights, but Jackie Hao (Elgin Park), Andy Guo (Semiahmoo), and Sutong Wang and Ryan Tomilin (both University Hill) all scored 4.0/5. [Results](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 5 (June 10)

The fifth edition of the [Fraser Valley Chess Academy's](#) Rapid events attracted eighty-seven entrants to the Christian Life Assembly Church in Langley on June 10. The biggest change this time around was the division of the field into three, there now being a U1000 Section in addition to the normal Open and U1400 Sections. The fourteen-player [Open Section](#) was noticeably smaller than usual but featured the same two leading players as last time, CM Jorge Nunez Asencio and rising junior Zachary Liu, who quickly pulled away from the pack. Reversing their results in Rapid 4, Zachary won their individual encounter and emerged in clear first place with 5.5 points, while Jorge had to settle for second. Newcomer Ameet Kumar Dalal lost to the frontrunners but won the rest of his games in placing third, while Ryan Leong, Daniel Folster, and Timur Zaruev tied for fourth. In the [U1400 Section](#) Gerry Bonggao, Narek Bobloyan, Sherwin Garcia, and Daniel Zhu all scored 5.0 points to tie for first ahead of thirty-one other players; unrated Alejandro Lopez Herrera was clear fifth a half-point back. In contrast the new [U1000 Section](#) had a single winner, Hari Kaushik Pradhapkumar with 5.5 points, just ahead of Austin Yang and unrated Michael Nguyen who tied for second. Fourth was Anthony Shearcroft, there were thirty-eight players in the section.

Vancouver Chess Festivals

Vancouver Chess School is delighted to announce the forthcoming Vancouver Chess Festivals scheduled to commence in Fall 2023! Anticipate engaging weekends brimming with intense competition, and an unwavering passion for the game of chess. Mark your calendars for the following dates: **September 16-17, October 21-22, November 11-12** and **December 9-10**.

Our meticulously curated lineup includes:

2-day Classical Tournament

Open Section 4-round Swiss: FIDE & CFC rated (G90)

U1800 5-round Swiss: FIDE, CFC & CMA rated (G60)

U1000 5-round Swiss: CFC and CMA rated (G60)

1-day Rapid Tournament (6-round Swiss: CFC and CMA rated)

2-hour Blitz Tournament (7-round Swiss)

What sets this event apart is the freedom to participate in multiple tournaments of your choice throughout the weekend. Feel free to indulge your preferences and explore combinations such as classic + blitz or rapid + blitz.

Moreover, we are thrilled to announce a staggering prize pool amounting to \$5500! Regardless of whether you are a seasoned chess aficionado or an enthusiastic novice, the Vancouver Chess Festivals embrace players of all skill levels. Register now to embark on an extraordinary journey that will elevate your love for chess to unprecedented heights!

For further details, we encourage you to visit the [event registration](#) page. We eagerly await your presence in Fall 2023! Let's make some moves!

GREATER VANCOUVER II (June 3-4)



The second Greater Vancouver tournament organized by the [Penny Chess Club](#) was very similar to the first last January – a five-round Swiss at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby in four sections. The biggest difference was the schedule: instead of five rounds of 90 + 30, the first three rounds were instead at 50 + 10, meaning they could all be played on the Saturday of a weekend rather than requiring a Friday round as well. There were also thirty more players than in January, for a grand total of just over two hundred.

The twenty-seven player [Premier Section](#) included eleven over 2000, headed as before by IMs Quang Long Le and Raymond Kaufman, yet this time round neither of them finished in the winner's circle. Long gave up three draws, and Raymond blundered and lost to Johan Aljo in the fourth round. Tied with 4.0/5 were CM Jorge Nunez Asencio and juniors Nathan Ping-Ying Wu and Zachary Liu, finishing in that order on tiebreak. Jorge had a somewhat unusual path to first place, taking a zero-point bye in round three but winning the rest of his games. The IMs tied for fourth along with juniors Johan Aljo, Matthew He, and Jingyun (Ryan) Yang. Apart from cash prizes there were also trophies for the best boy and girl finishers by two-year age groups; for the Premier these were Justin Gao, Johan Aljo, Matthew He, and Gillian Mok.

Nathan Yi-Hsin Yang and newcomer Amhjeet Kumar dalal drew in the last-round to place first and second in the fifty-three player [U1800 Section](#) with 4.5 points each. Third was Orven Ortiz and trophies went to Daniel Zhu, Andrew Yin, Aiden Hao-Ting Lu, Boyong Guo, Ihor Boiko, Hannah Xu, and Abigail Wang. In the [1000A Section](#) Shaunavon Mu was first with a perfect score, Nuo Yi clear second, and on tiebreak Micah Chow was third. Trophy winners were Khai Le, Markus Li, Vincent Mu, Jayce Li, Bobby Nguyen, Hannah Li, Sofia Vigurs, and Joanne Wangluo. After tiebreaks were applied Rex Yu, Ansun Zhong Hua Zhou, and Morgan Liu won the place prizes in [U1000B](#) and trophies were awarded to Aiden Zhu, Jeffery Deng, Krishnav Nair, Zhibo Zhang, Leo Zhou, Mary Ortiz, Karen Chen, and May Wangluo.

Aljo, Johan (2040) – Kaufman, Raymond (2333) [D97] Greater Vancouver II Burnaby (4.1), 04.06.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4 0–0 7.e4 Be6 8.d5 Bc8 9.Be2 c6 10.0–0 cxd5 11.exd5 Ne8 12.Bf4 Na6 13.Qb3 Nd6 14.Qa3 Bf5 15.Bxa6 bxa6 16.Qxa6 Ne4 17.Ne5 Bxe5

18.Bxe5 f6 19.Nxe4 Bxe4 20.Bc3 Qxd5 21.Rad1 Qc6 22.Qxc6 Bxc6 23.Bb4 Kf7 24.Rc1 Rfc8
 25.Rfe1 e6 26.a3 a5 27.Bc3 a4 28.f3 e5 29.Kf2 Ke6 30.Bb4 Bd5 31.Ke3 f5 32.Red1 g5 33.Kf2
 Rab8 34.Bc3 e4 35.fxe4 Bxe4 36.Bb4 f4 37.Rd6+ Ke5 38.Rdd1 g4 39.Bd6+ Ke6 40.Bxb8 Rxb8
 41.Rd2 f3 42.Rc4 Bd5 43.Rcd4 Rb5 44.gxf3 Bxf3 45.Rxa4 h5 46.Kg3 Re5 47.Rf4 Re3 48.Kf2 Rb3
 49.Rb4 Rxb4 50.axb4 Ke5 51.Ke3 Be4 52.Rd8 1-0

Nunez Asencio, Jorge (2328) – Aljo, Johan (2040) [D36] Greater Vancouver II Burnaby (5.1), 04.06.2023

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 c6 8.Qc2 h6 9.Bf4 Re8 10.Nf3
 a5 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Nb5 Nc5 13.Nc7 Nxd3 14.Qxd3 Bg4 15.Nxa8 Qxa8 16.Ne5 Be6 17.h3 Qc8
 18.Rfc1 Bf5 19.Qd1 Ne4 20.g4 Be6 21.f3 Nd6 22.Rc2 f6 23.Ng6 Nc4 24.b3 Nb6 25.Nxe7+ Rxe7
 26.Rg2 Bf7 27.Qd2 a4 28.h4 g5 29.hxg5 hxg5 30.Bd6 Re6 31.Bb4 Qe8 32.Kf2 Nd7 33.Rh1 Bg6
 34.Rgh2 Kg7 35.Rh6 b6 36.R1h2 c5 37.Bc3 axb3 38.axb3 b5 39.Qc1 b4 40.Bb2 c4 41.bxc4 dxc4
 42.Qxc4 Rxe3 43.Rh8 Rxf3+ 44.Kxf3 Qe4+ 45.Kf2 Qf4+ 46.Ke1 Qg3+ 47.Kd1 Qxg4+ 48.Qe2
 Qg1+ 49.Kd2 Nb8 1-0



BC SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (June 9-11) by Paul Leblanc

Thirty-seven players competed in the eleventh annual BC Senior Championship, held at the Comfort Inn in Surrey over the weekend of 9-11 June.



This tournament is a reunion of sorts with many of the same combatants returning year after year. Three of this year's players have played in all eleven of the championships (Brian McLaren, Brian Sullivan, and Paul Leblanc). The games were fiercely fought with 85% of the games reaching a decisive conclusion. Away from the board however, this friendly community of chess players found lots of time for post-mortems in the pub next to the hotel.

Co-champions Arpak Worya and Reza Sardari defeated higher rated opponents (Mayo Fuentebella and Besniq Beqo respectively) in the last round to vault into a first-place tie. The prize fund was \$1500 with generous sponsorship from the BCCF. In addition to this the top finisher to attend the Canadian Senior Championship will receive a \$500 travel grant from the BCCF. [Crosstable](#)



Arbiter Brian Davidson, Champions Reza Sardari and Arpak Worya and Organizer Paul Leblanc



Jofrel Langingin was very pleased to win the U1800 prize



U1500 winner Werner Harmse (left) vs Mark Gulbinowicz (round 3)

McLaren, Brian (2012) – Landingin, Jofrel (1560) [C23] BC sen 11th Surrey (2), 10.06.2023

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Bc5 3.d4 Bxd4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nxd4 exd4 6.0–0 Qf6 7.f4 Nh6 8.Nd2 Na5 9.Bd3 c5
10.e5 Qh4 11.Ne4 b6 12.Nd6+ Kf8 13.Be4 Nc6 14.b4 Rb8 15.bxc5 bxc5 16.Rf3 Ng4 17.h3 Nh6
18.Ba3 Nb4 19.Bxb4 cxb4 20.Qxd4 f5 21.Bd5 g5 22.e6 Ke7 23.Qxh8 Bb7 24.Qg7+ Kxd6
25.Qxd7+ Kc5 26.Qc7+ Kxd5 27.Rd1+ 1–0

Fuentebella, Mayo (2249) – McLaren, Brian (2012) [A31] BC sen 11th Surrey (3), 10.06.2023

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.a3 Qc7 7.e4 d6 8.Be2 Be7 9.0–0 0–0 10.Be3
Nbd7 11.Rc1 b6 12.f3 Bb7 13.Qd2 Rac8 14.Rfd1 Rfe8 15.g4 g6 16.Kg2 Qb8 17.Bf2 Ne5 18.Na4
Nexg4 19.fxg4 Nxe4 20.Qc2 Nxf2+ 21.Kxf2 d5 22.Kg1 b5 23.Nc3 bxc4 24.Bf3 Bc5 25.Kh1 Red8
26.Bg2 Kg7 27.Qf2 Qe5 28.Nce2 Qf6 29.Qg3 Bd6 30.g5 Qe5 31.Qh4 Rh8 32.Qh6+ Kg8 33.Re1
Bf8 34.Qh4 h6 35.Nf3 hxg5 36.Qg4 Qf5 37.Qg3 Bg7 38.Rf1 Qd3 39.Qf2 Rc7 40.Nxg5 Rh5 41.Nf4
Qf5 42.Nxh5 Qxf2 43.Rxf2 gxh5 44.Bf3 Bd4 45.Rg2 Kf8 46.Bxh5 Be3 47.Rf1 Bxg5 48.Rxg5 d4+
49.Bf3 Bxf3+ 50.Rxf3 c3 51.bxc3 dxc3 52.Rf1 Ke7 53.Rc1 Kd6 54.Rg3 c2 55.Kg2 f5 56.Rb3 Kd5
57.Rb2 Rc3 58.Ra2 1–0

Besnik (Nick) Beqo kindly submitted his thoughts on the tournament, annotations to two of his games and brief comments on a critical position in a third – many thanks!

“When I noticed on BCCF website that the BC Seniors 2023 tournament was scheduled to be played in my neighbourhood, I could not help registering for it, even though I prefer at least seven rounds, and I hadn’t played chess with classical time control in twenty years!

As a hobby, I have been successfully helping certain children cross the [2000 ELO](#) rating barrier though coaching at that level does not help me improve my level (smile).

I played three games as Black and two games as White and surprisingly, I did not do too bad. I won in round one with the Black pieces, won in round two with White pieces, drew in round three with the Black pieces (I had a winning position [-5.0]), drew in round four with White pieces (had

also a winning position [+5.0]), and lost in the last round with the Black pieces in a very weird game where my opponent opened with 1.f4. I am skipping the games that I won, and I am sharing some of my comments on the last three games.”

Kagaoan, Jose (1928) – Beqo, Besnik (2139) [B20] BC sen Surrey (3.2), 10.06.2023 [Beqo]

1.e4 c5 2.a3 Back in the day, this passive move would had been criticized but, in the recent years, chess engines have changed chess so much that it's hard to criticize anything in the openings. After all, this move has been played by top grandmasters, including Carlsen! **2...d5 3.exd5 Nf6** Playing in a gambit spirit! **4.c4 e6 5.dxe6 Bxe6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be2 Be7 8.Nc3 0–0 9.0–0 Qd7 10.d3 Rad8** In this position, I am a pawn down, but I have successfully completed the opening in the traditional way, and I believe I have compensation for the pawn because my pieces are active and the pawn on d3 is a permanent target, so I am not worried too much that I am playing with a pawn down. **11.Bg5 h6 12.Be3 Ng4 13.h3 Nge5 14.Ne4 b6 15.Qc2** In this position I decided to go for a kingside attack, starting with the move f5-f4, with the idea of sacrificing on h3.



15...f5 16.Nc3 f4 17.Bc1 Somehow, I could not work out all the variations and sub-variations after 17...Bxh3 which according to the engine is winning for Black [-5.0 evaluation]. Being rusty, old, and lazy, and because I like endgames very much, I decided to simplify the position into a slightly better endgame due to the bishop pair and three vs two pawn structure on the queenside. **17...Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Nd4 19.Qd1 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3 Qxd3 21.Qxd3 Rxd3 22.Re1 Kf7 23.Bxf4 Bxc4** The position is not as good for Black as I thought, the engine gives only -0.5 evaluation. On the other hand, my opponent defended extremely well, beyond my expectations. Apparently, I was overconfident that I would keep increasing my slight advantage. **24.Re4 Rd4 25.Rae1 Bf6 26.Be5 Rxe4 27.Rxe4 Bxe5 28.Rxe5 Rd8**



According to the endgame principles, rook and bishop is better than rook and knight, besides, my king is more active; yet Stockfish still gives the same evaluation, -0.5, which means pretty much “drawish position with some tiny chances for Black”. The game continued: **29.Ne4 Rd1+ 30.Kh2 Rd4 31.Kg3 Bd3 32.Nc3 Bc4 33.Ne4 Be6 34.Nc3 a6 35.f4 g6 36.Kf3 Bd7 37.Ke3 Bc6 38.g3 Rd8 39.h4 c4 40.Ke2 Rd3 41.Re3 Rd4 42.Ke1 b5 43.Re5 Rd3 44.Rc5 Bd7 45.Rd5 Rxd5 46.Nxd5 a5 47.Kd2 Ke6 48.Ne3 h5 49.Kc3 Kd6 50.Kd4 Be6 1/2–1/2**

Beqo, Besnik (2139) – Fuentebella, Mayo (2249) [B22] BC sen Surrey (4.1), 11.06.2023 [Beqo]

1.e4 c5 Mayo surprized me with the Sicilian, I was expecting the French Defence. By the way, this was my most important game because Mayo was the highest rated player in the BC Seniors 2023, and this was the first time I had ever faced Mayo in a tournament with classical time control. **2.Nf3 e6 3.c3** I decided to surprize Mayo Back with the Alapin. **3...d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nc6 6.Na3 cxd4 7.Nb5 Bd6 8.Bc4 Qe4+** In this position, both 9.Be3 and 9.Be2 have been played but I decided to exchange queens and play positional chess. **9.Qe2 Qxe2+ 10.Kxe2 Bb8 11.Nbxd4 Nge7 12.Be3 0–0 13.Rhd1** I have completed the opening successfully and my rook is on the open file. The game continued, **13...e5 14.Nb5 Bg4 15.h3 Na5** Mayo is trying to complicate the position, but he missed a simple tactic.



16.Bxf7+ Rxf7 17.hxg4 a6 Now I am a pawn up, control the open file, and have great pieces. During the game I thought, “How could Mayo miss that, now the game is over, all I have to do is exchange pieces.” Stockfish gives +5.2 evaluation. Mayo got nervous and we both started to make many inaccuracies and mistakes. **18.Nd6?!** Inaccuracy. Best was 18. Na3 guarding the c4 square. **18...Bxd6 19.Rxd6 Nc4 20.Rd7 Nc6 21.Rad1?** Big mistake! We both missed the simple tactic 21...Nd4! and Black is back in the game! I should have taken on f7 first and then play Rad1. **21...Raf8? 22.Ng5?** Another mistake. Better was 22.Rxf7 Rxf7 23.b3 Nxe3 24.Kxe3 +- **22... Nxe3?** Black still had the chance to play 22...Nd4 but it no longer has the effect that had a few moves ago. **23.Rxf7** Inaccuracy. I looked at 23.Ke3 Rf2 24.Ne6 but decided to keep it simple. **23...Rxf7 24.Kxe3 Re7**

25.Ne4 Kf7 26.Nd6+ Kf6 27.Nf5 Rf7 28.Nd6 Re7 29.f3 Ke6 30.Ne4 Rc7



If you went after the h-pawn with the move 31.Ng5 then you made the same mistake that I made in the game. The correct plan is to go after e5 pawn with Nc5, Rd5, and Ke4. The move Ke4 was tempting but it felt risky. **31.Ng5+ Kf6 32.Nxh7+ Kg6 33.Nf8+ Kf6 34.Nd7+ 34.Rd7** is also winning here, i.e. 34...Rc8 35.g5! Kg5 36.Ne6 etc. **34...Ke7 35.Nb6 Ke6 36.b4 Ne7** I was looking at 37.c4 but after Rc6 I forgot about c5 (out of practice). **37.Rd3? Rc6 38.Na4?!** Inaccuracy. 38.Nd7 was best; after 38...Nd5 39.Kd2 White does not lose a piece; 39...b6 40.Nf8 Kd6 41.Ng6 Rc4 42.Ne7! **38...b6 39.Kd2?!** Inaccuracy. Rd8 was best. **39...Nd5 40.g3 e4 41.fxe4 Nf6 42.Ke3 Nxc4+ 43.Kf4 Ne5** I am two pawns up but the position requires lots of work and accuracy. **44.Rd8** Going after a8 but it was better to play 44.Rd5 followed by Rg5 and e5.

44...Nd7 45.Rg8 Kf6 46.Rd8 Ke6 47.Ra8 b5 48.Nc5+ Nxc5 49.bxc5 Kf6



The engine shows +5 again but if “to win a winning position is the most difficult thing in chess” try to win a winning rook endgame, that’s even more difficult (hence the axiom, “All rook endgames are drawn”). The winning plan here is 50.Rf8 and Rf5. During the game I could not find this winning plan so I decided to play a waiting move instead.

50.a3 Rxc5 51.Rxa6+ Kf7 52.Rb6 Rxc3 53.Rxb5 Rxa3 54.g4 Ra4 55.Rb7+ Kg6 56.Rb6+ Kf7



According to the endgame tablebases there are nine winning moves in this position. This will be my next project to work on and once I learn and understand this position well, I will share it with my students. In the game I played **57.Ke5** with the idea Kd6 and e5 but that’s a draw with accurate play from both sides. The game continued with **57...Ra5+ 58.Kd6 Kf6 59.Rc6!**



The position is still very tricky, and Black must find the correct moves to draw the game. Hint: There are only four drawing moves here. Mayo played the losing move **59...Rg5?** It looks like a logical move to go after the g-pawn but doing so he gave me my last chance to win the game. There is only one winning move for White here. Congratulations if you found **60.Rc8!** and its winning idea! In the game, I played the rook on the opposite side of the board, the game ended in a draw, and Mayo happily told me that he got very lucky!
60.Rc1? Rxc4 61.Rf1+ Kg6 62.e5 Rd4+ 63.Ke6 Ra4 64.Rg1+ Kh7 65.Rd1 Kg6 66.Ke7 Kf5 67.e6 g5 68.Kf7 g4 69.Rf1+ Kg5 70.e7 Re4 71.e8Q Rxe8 72.Kxe8 g3 73.Kf7 Kg4 74.Kg6 g2 75.Ra1 Kg3 76.Kg5 Kh2 77.Kf4 1/2-1/2

Mohammed Qanee, Arpak Worya (2079) – Kagaoan, Jose (1928) [B00] BC sen 11th Surrey (4.3), 11.06.2023

1.d4 e6 2.e4 b6 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bd3 Nd7 6.0–0 h6 7.Ne2 Ngf6 8.Ng3 g6 9.a4 a5 10.h3 Bg7 11.Bf4 Qe7 12.Qd2 Rd8 13.Rad1 g5 14.Nxg5 hxg5 15.Bxg5 c6 16.Rde1 Kf8 17.Nf5 exf5 18.exf5 Ne5 19.f4 Qd7 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.dxe5 Qd4+ 22.Qf2 Qxb2 23.exf6 Bxf6 24.Rb1 Qd4 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 26.Rxb6 Rd7 27.Rfb1 Bc8 28.Qc5+ Qd6 29.Rxc6 Qxc5+ 30.Rxc5 Ke7 31.Rb8 Rdd8 32.Rxa5 Bd7 33.Rxd8 Rxd8 34.Kf2 Bc6 35.g4 f6 36.Ra6 Be8 37.Re6+ Kf7 38.Bc4 Kg7 39.Bb5 Bf7 40.Re7 Kf8 41.Rd7 Rc8 42.Bd3 Be8 43.Ra7 Bc6 44.a5 Ba4 45.a6 Bc6 46.h4 1–0

Fuentebella, Mayo (2249) – Mohammed Qanee, Arpak Worya (2079) [A35] BC sen 11th Surrey (5.1), 11.06.2023

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.e3 Nf6 7.Be2 0–0 8.0–0 d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Bf3 Qc5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qa4 Rb8 14.Bxc6 Rb4 15.Qa3 a5 16.Bf3 Qb5 17.Rd1 Be6 18.Qd3 Rb8 19.h3 Bxb2 20.Bxb2 Rxb2 21.Bd5 Qxd3 22.Rxd3 Rc8 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Ra3 Rcc2 25.Rxa5 Rxf2 26.Rg5 Rxa2 27.Re1 Kg7 28.Rg3 e5 29.e4 Rfe2 30.Re3 Rxc2+ 31.Kh1 Rh2+ 32.Kg1 Rag2+ 33.Kf1 Kh6 34.Rf3 Rh1+ 35.Kxg2 Rxe1 36.Rf7 Rxe4 37.Rxe7 g5 38.Kg3 Kg6 39.Re6+ Kf5 40.Rh6 Rh4 41.Ra6 h5 42.Ra8 Rb4 43.Rf8+ Ke4 44.Rg8 Rb3+ 45.Kg2 Rb2+ 46.Kf1 Kf3 47.Rf8+ Kg3 48.Rf5 Rb1+ 49.Ke2 Kh4 50.Rxe5 Rb3 51.Kf2 Rxh3 52.Kg2 Rg3+ 53.Kh2 Rc3 54.Re2 g4 55.Kg2 Rc5 56.Ra2 Kg5 57.Rb2 h4 58.Ra2 h3+ 59.Kh2 Kh4 60.Ra1 g3+ 61.Kh1 Rc3 62.Kg1 h2+ 0–1

Sardari, Reza (1938) – Beqo, Besnik (2139) [A02] BC sen Surrey (5), 11.06.2023 [Sardari]

1.f4 Due to lack of opening knowledge, before each tournament I have to prepare myself for a couple of openings. For a “Senior tournament” I was counting on decreasing the level of energy and focus over time so I needed to chose an opening with both flanks activity plus being less played to force opponent to think and spend valuable energy from the beginning. **1...Nf6** [Nick Beqo’s comments are in italics: *In retrospect, last time I faced 1.f4 opening was over forty years ago when I was a regular tournament player in Europe and From’s Gambit was in my Black repertoire. It was a local tournament and my shortest tournament game ever happened: 1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.h3 My opponent played the last move instinctively to stop g4, and to my surprise I spotted 5...Bg3 checkmate! In the BC Seniors, I did not play From’s Gambit because I could not rely on my memory from forty years ago most importantly everything has to be checked with the engines nowadays. Hence, I decided to go for a King’s Indian setup. My opponent, Reza Sardari, a nice fellow from Victoria, played some kind of reversed Dutch Leningrad.*] **2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.O-O c6 6.c3 d6 7.Kh1 a5 8.a4 h5** Bird opening idea is mainly about e5 square. We both had tried to keep the pawns flexible to avoid permanent weaknesses early in the game at the cost of making alterations/slight mistakes in this phase. I could understand a5 move, but the h5 to me sounded a bit aggressive and aimless. Maybe he wanted to stress me out and force to react prematurely. Proper move could be something like Nbd7 to prepare for e5 **9.Qe1** The logical move is d3, but based on the h5 move I was hoping that he can see b3 hole! I may use some extra help from him to send his knight with tempo to the far side. **9...Ne4 10.d3 Nc5 11.Be3 Nba6 12.Nbd2?!** As we go further in the game, I find myself calculating imaginary threats while I should have stayed with the main idea of Bird opening with d4. Something like 12.d4 Nd7 13.Bg1 and get ready for e4. Now he has a chance to open up with d5 **12...Bg4? 13.d4** Oh well both sides made mistake Bg4 can be punished by Nh4 like this: 13.Nh4 e5 14.f5 g5 15.h3 Bf6 16.hxg4 hxg4 17.d4 Nd7 18.dxe5 Nxe5 19.Ne4 gxh4 20.Rd1 d5 21.Nxf6+

Qxf6 22.gxh4) but I was so impressed by my own bad move that I couldn't see the shortcut.
13...Nd7 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Rxf3 Still under my imagination and thinking about Qb6 plus having an eye on f-file to open so I could attack with Rooks. Taking with knight would be more natural for the position something like: 15.Nxf3 e6 16.Bd2 d5 17.g4 hxg4 18.hxg4 f5 19.Ng5 Re8 with the idea of using h-file for my Rooks and Queen. **15...e6** I guess the last round of seniors looks like this! Now Besnik trying to limit my white bishop activity as he doesn't have one anymore. Instead 15...f5 16.Rf1 Nf6 could postpone kingside attack. **16.Bg1**



16...d5 Now I'm going back to the idea of the opening. He could avoid it by attacking d4 for example 16...c5 17.dxc5 Naxc5 18.e4 Qc7 19.Bf1 Nf6 20.Bb5 d5 21.e5 Nfe4 It changes the course of game and shift it to queenside, but still white will be slightly better as in normal continuation with d5 like: 16...d5 17.e4 dxe4 18.Nxe4 Nf6 19.Ng5 Nc7 **17.e4 Nf6?** Now Nf6 allows me to close the centre and open attacking file on kingside. I think it's a bad mistake. **18.e5 Nd7** Maybe Nh7 that keeps the knight in active defending position could help more. **19.g4 hxg4 20.hxg4 f6 21.exf6** And inevitable is coming. I spent 10 minutes to avoid taking f6 for example 21.Rh3 Kf7 22. Nf3 Rh8 23.Qg3 fxe5 24.Ng5+ Ke7 25.fxe5 Rxh3+ 26.Nxh3 but I didn't see any advantage, so I preferred to go for somehow permanent weakness of e6. **21...Qxf6 22.g5 Qe7**

23.Bh3 For the Bh3 I spent another 10 minutes just to realize that my e2 knight is supporting my rook! Looks like I'm losing my focus and falling in my own trap! **23...Kf7 24.Re3 Nc7 25.Bh2 Rh8** Trying to use e6 weakness as planned. **26.f5?** Premature attack. Black can't improve his position the way White can. I should have been more patient and made moves like Qg3 and Rae1 or Rf1 to prepare a full-scale attack. For example 26.Qg3 Nf8 27.f5 gxf5 28.Rf1 Qd7 29.Qxc7 Qxc7 30.Bxc7 Rc8 31.Bd6 Rh5 32.Rg3 **26...gxf5 27.Bxc7?** Another mistake. I should have trade g-pawn for a tempo to keep controlling the game: 27.g6+ Kg8 28.Bxc7 Nf6 29.Bf4 Re8 30.Qf1 Ng4 31.Rg3 Nf6 32.Re1 Nh5 33.Rd3 Nxf4 34.Qxf4 or even better for White 27...Kxg6 28.Qg3+ Kf7 29.Bxf5 Nf8 30.Rf1 Kg8 31. Nf3 c5 32. Bd3 **27...Qxg5 28.Rg3 Qh5** I knew that my knight has to move to f3, now I spent another good 10 minutes not to realize that my Knight on f3 is safe! 29.Nf3 Bf6 30.Qe3 Rag8 31.Rag1 Rg4 32.R1g2 Rhg8 33.Qf2 Qh6 34.Rh2 Qc1+ 35.Qg1 Qxg1+ 36.Rxg1 and White keeps upper hand so I played: **29.Kg2??** Which left me nothing but trouble **29...Rag8 30.Qd1 Qh6 31. Qe2** 31.Nf3 Nf6 32.Ne5+ Ke8 33.Ng6 Ne4 34.Nxh8 Nxg3 35.Bxg3 Rxh8 36.Bxf5 exf5 is not much better. *I failed to equalize from the opening, but the following unclear position arose in the middlegame:*



In this position Black has compensation for the piece and I had 1 hour on the clock, whereas my opponent had 5 minutes or less, but due to the 30 sec increment per move that's plenty of time. I was looking at Qxh3 idea but could not make any progress after 31...Bxd4 32.cxd4 Qxh3 because the critical square f4 was guarded by the bishop on c7. I failed to make the Zwischenzug 32...e5! work too so I played 31...Bf6. My opponent immediately played the move 32.Rh1, defended very accurately and I resigned in move 59. Very deserved win by my opponent! 31...Bf6 He is sticking to the plan we both had seen. Maybe taking the central pawn would give him better chances. 32.Rh1 Bh4 32...Bg5 isn't superior for example: Bg5 33.Nb3 Nf6 34.Kf1 Ne4 35.Rf3 Qg6 36.Ke1 Bh4+

37.Kd1 but the catch is the fact that I'm running of time and the latter choice could keep his pieces in the game. **33.Rxg8 Rxg8+ 34.Kf1 Qg5?** Well, Besnik is helping me by playing fast. He has about 55 minutes more than me. This allows me to simplify the game so I can use my extra piece. Maybe Nf6 would hold it better for him. **35.Bh2 Nf6 36.Rg1 Ng4 37.Bxg4 fxc4 38.Bg3** To simplify the game. Kg2 is superior and holding but given the situation I couldn't calculate its safety. For instance: 38.Kg2 Ke7 39.Rf1 g3 40.Bg1 Qg6 41.Be3 Bf6 42.Rh1 **38...Ke7 39.Ke1 Bxg3+ 40.Rxg3 Qh4 41.Nf1 Rg6** He touched the rook to place it on f8 but saw queen taking g4 so he had to move the rook. **42.Qe5** Moving the king would make more sense but I was hoping for a few checks to buy myself some time. **42...Rf6 43.Qc7+ Kf8 44. Qd8+ Kf7 45.Qd7+ Kf8 46.Qd6+ Kf7 47.Ke2** Now it is the time to free my rook as I got extra minutes. **47...Kg6 48.Qe5** Ne3 is possible at this point but I preferred to play safe. **48...Kf7 49.Ne3 Qh2+ 50.Rg2 Qh3 51.Rxg4 Rg6?? 51...Qf3+ 52.Kd3** and king is safe. **52.Rf4+** I did not see how to end the game fast in seconds I had left 52.Qc7+ Kf6 (52...Ke8 53.Rxg6 Qh5+ 54.Rg4) 53.Rf4+ Kg5 54.Qe5+ Kh6 55. Qh8+) **52...Kg8 53.Qb8+ Kh7 54.Rf7+** And the rest will be simple. **54...Rg7 55.Rxg7+ Kxg7 56.Qc7+ Kg6 57.Qf4 Qh1 58.Qg4+ Kf7 59.Qf3+ 1-0** I enjoyed the game and hope the same for Besnik. It wasn't his day. Thank you Besnik

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Chess in Pubs (no minors)

Langley, June 22

[Details](#)

SFU Summer Open

Burnaby, June 24-25

[Details](#)

St-Jean Baptiste Rapid

Esquimalt, June 24

[Details](#)

Canada Day Open

Richmond, July 1-3

[Details](#)

BC-WA Match

Richmond, July 1-3

[Details](#)

Blendz CC lichess simul with GM Saric

Online, July 16

[Details](#)

WV Rapid

West Vancouver, July 23

[Details](#)

Summer Classical Open and Blitz

Langley, July 27-29

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 6

Langley, August 12

[Details](#)

WV Rapid

West Vancouver, August 13

[Details](#)

Lynn Stringer Memorial

Sidney, August 19-20

[Details](#)

WV Rapid

West Vancouver, August 27

[Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival

Vancouver, September 16-17

[Details](#)

Fraser Valley Rapid 7

Langley, September 23

[Details](#)