BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #445

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

WYCC (November 13-24)

(photo by Lilian Zhang)

This year the World Youth Chess Championships, the upper three categories (U14, U16, U18) of FIDE's two-year age group championships, was held in Montesilvano on Italy's Adriatic Coast, at a similar latitude to Rome on the west. Almost eight hundred and fifty players participated in the event, including fourteen from Canada and two from this province, Andrew Yu Qiu and Peter Yong Qiu in the U18 Open category. The competition was tough and gruelling (eleven rounds) – GM Volodar Murzin (FIDE 2625) was an entrant in the U18 Open but did not win it. Andrew and Peter finished with 4.0 and 5.0 points respectively, placing 116th and 96th in the two hundred and seventeen player section. Best Canadian scores were achieved by Michelle Zhang (7.0 points, 22nd in U14 Girls), CM Leo Lin (6.5 points, 50th in U14 Open), and FM Daniel Xu (also 6.5, 29th in U16 Open). Standings

Fall 2023 GM/IM Norm Invitationals (November 17-21)

The Charlotte Chess Center in North Carolina has been running biannual norm tournaments for a number of years – indeed, it was this time last year that Max Gedajlovic earned his second IM norm in the Fall 2022 events. This Fall there were four norm round robins, two for GM aspirants

and two for IM norms, which included four Canadians: FM Zachary Dukic, IM Max Gedajlovic, FM William Graif, and NM Ethan Song. Only one norm was achieved, in IM C, where William Graif scored 7.0/9 for his first IM norm. Ethan Song, playing in the same section, could only manage 4.0 points but did beat Graif in the last round. Dukic placed second in IM D with 6.0 points, while Max scored minus one in GM B. Crosstables

Gedajlovic, Max (2407) – Ippolito,Dean (2356) [D31] Fall 2023 GM/IM Norm inv B Charlotte (8.1), 20.11.2023

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 c6 6.Qc2 Nf6 7.h3 g6 8.e3 Bf5 9.Qd2 h5 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.Bd3 Ne4 12.Bxe4 dxe4 13.Ng5 Bb4 14.f3 exf3 15.e4 fxg2 16.Rg1 f6 17.exf5 fxg5 18.Bxg5 Be7 19.Qe3 gxf5 20.0–0–0 Kd7 21.Rxg2 Bxg5 22.Rxg5 Re8 23.Rg7+ Re7 24.Rdg1 Qe8 25.Qe5 1–0

Song, Ethan (2176) – Graif, William (2289) [B36] Fall 2023 GM/IM Norm inv C Charlotte (9.2), 21.11.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.Be3 0–0 9.0–0 Bd7 10.f3 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 a5 12.Rb1 Bc6 13.Kh1 Nd7 14.Be3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 f6 16.Qe1 a4 17.c5 Nxc5 18.Bc4+ Kh8 19.Bh6 Qa5 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.Qe3 Kg7 22.Rb4 Rc8 23.Rfb1 Bd7 24.f4 Bc6 25.Bb5 e5 26.fxe5 fxe5 27.Bxc6 Rxc6 28.Qg5 Qc7 29.Rf1 Nd3 30.Qf6+ Kh6 31.Qf8+ Qg7 32.Qf3 Nf4 33.g3 Ne6 34.Qe3+ g5 35.Rxa4 Qe7 36.Ra8 Kg7 37.Qf3 h6 38.Rb8 Rb6 39.a4 Ra6 40.Qd3 Qc7 41.Re8 Nd8 42.Qf3 1–0

Fraser Valley Rapid 9 (November 18)

The weekend of November 18-19 was a busy one for chess, with at least four events happening locally (Langley, Richmond, West Vancouver, and Burnaby). Almost two hundred players participated in the BC Junior, which meant the other events were likely to be considerably smaller than usual. Fraser Valley Rapid 9, held as usual at the Christian Life Assembly Church in Langley, attracted thirty-nine entrants and was held in two sections rather than the usual three. In the U1400 Section Sion Park was only ranked fifteenth but claimed first prize with 5.5 points, a half-point ahead of Rio Vilches in second while third was Karim Elbably; Nimit Naman was the top U1100. Three players tied on 5.0 points in the U1000 Section, with Hector Abad, Aaron Creor, and Corrigan Brown placing first, second, and third after tiebreaks were applied. Games

Cranswick, Owen (1195) – Park, Sion (1061) [B08] Fraser Valley Rapid 9 U1400 Langley (5), 18.11.2023

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 0–0 6.Bc4 Nbd7 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 Nb6 9.Bb5 Bd7 10.Bxd7 Qxd7 11.b3 c6 12.dxc6 Qxc6 13.Qd3 Rfc8 14.Bd2 Nfd7 15.Qb5 d5 16.Qxc6 Rxc6 17.0–0–0 dxe4 18.Nxe4 Rac8 19.c3 f5 20.Ng3 e4 21.Ne1 Nd5 22.c4 b5 23.Kb1 bxc4 24.bxc4 Rb8+ 25.Kc1 Rxc4+ 26.Nc2 Bb2+ 27.Kb1 Ba3+ 28.Ka1 Rxc2 29.Bc1 Nc3 30.Rd2 Rb1# 0–1

Vancity Rapid Fall (November 18)

Also on November 18 was the Vancity Fall Rapid, held in the lounge of Bethany Baptist Church in Richmond. The twenty-five player Open Section had five players over 2000, including IM Vicent Lee jr., CM Jorge Nunez Asencio, and NM Mayo Fuentebella, but it was newly-crowned BC Champion CM Neil Doknjas (right) who carried the day, giving up but a single draw to Jorge in scoring 5.5 points and taking first place. Mayo was second and Jorge third; Vicente had an off day, losing to James Rife who we gather is taking lessons from former BC champion Bruce Harper. The U1400 Section, reduced to a baker's dozen of players, was won by Cole Newton with a perfect score ahead of Scott Parsley and Daniel O'Mahony. As the tournament also completed the Rapid Chess League, trophies were presented to the seasonal winners. (photo by Victoria Doknjas)

Banff Open (November 10-12)

Now in it's seventh year, the 2023 Banf Open saw another record turnout of one hundred and thirty-one players, including from this province Johan Aljo, Quinton Burrows, Zachary Burrows, Gilles Bruneau, Zachary Chruszcz, Christopher Englehart, Harold Glendale, Elijah Harmes, Reece Harms, Riley Harms, Steve Harms, Raymond Kaufman, Aiden Leong, Scott Malachi, Elliot McCallum, Siobhan McCallum, Chris McKim, Kevin Moore, Oliver Olivar, Leon Piasetski, Dejan Radic, Marko Radic, Nathan Ping-Ying Wu, Nicholas Pei-Chang Wu, Joey Xin, Joanne Xu, Ryan Bole Yu, and Brandon Zhu. Highest ranked was IM Mark Ginsburg who had previously won the tournament in 2017 and 2018 (also the 2018 Grand Pacific Open), but it was IM Raymond Kaufman who had at least a share of first for the entire event. Despite this, NM Anand Chandra from Calgary won his last three games (including defeating Ginsberg in round five) to tie with

Kaufman with 5.0 points. The custom in Banff is to decide a first-play tie with an Armageddon game – Anand won and is the Banff Open Champion for this year. Elsewhere IM Leon Piasetski tied for third a half-point off the pace, Elliot McCallum tied for sixth overall in the U2000 Section and gained 300 rating points, and Oliver Olivar tied for first in the U1600 Section.

Jiang, Brian (1888) – Kaufman, Raymond (2146) [A21]
Banff op Banff (5.1), 12.11.2023

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Nd5 a5 4.g3 c6 5.Nxb4 axb4 6.Bg2 d5
7.Qb3 Nf6 8.Qxb4 Na6 9.Qa3 dxc4 10.Qc3 0–0 11.Nf3 e4
12.Nd4 c5 13.Nc2 Be6 14.0–0 Qd7 15.b3 Nb4 16.bxc4 Nxa2
17.Qb3 Nxc1 18.Raxc1 Qxd2 19.Qxb7 Bxc4 20.Ne3 Ba6
21.Qe7 Rfe8 22.Qxc5 Rac8 23.Qa3 Bxe2 24.Bh3 Ra8
25.Qb3 Bxf1 26.Rc7 Rf8 27.Bxf1 Rab8 28.Rb7 Rxb7

Kaufman – how close can you get?

29.Qxb7 g6 30.Qe7 Qd4 31.Bc4 h5 32.h3 Kg7 33.Kg2 Qd7 34.Qe5 Re8 35.Qg5 Nh7 36.Qc5 Qe7 37.Qd4+ Qf6 38.Qd7 Rd8 39.Qb5 Qf3+ 40.Kg1 Rd2 0–1

Aljo, Johan (1686) – Piasetski, Leon David (2176) [E00] Banff op Banff (6.3), 12.11.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.Bg2 0–0 6.a3 Bxd2+ 7.Nxd2 d6 8.Ngf3 Qe7 9.0–0 a4 10.Qc2 e5 11.e4 Bd7 12.Rfe1 Nc6 13.Qc3 Rfe8 14.Rad1 Bg4 15.d5 Nd4 16.h3 Nxf3+ 17.Nxf3 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Nd7 19.Kh2 Nc5 20.Bh1 Ra6 21.f4 Rb6 22.f5 Rb3 23.Qc2 Qg5 24.Rg1 b5 25.cxb5 Rb8 26.h4 Qe3 27.Qg2 R8xb5 28.Rd2 Qxd2 29.Qxd2 Rxb2 30.Rg2 Rxd2 31.Rxd2 Rb3 32.Ra2 h5 33.Bg2 Kf8 34.Ra1 Ke7 35.Ra2 Kd8 36.Ra1 Kc8 37.f6 g6 38.Bh3+ Kd8 39.Bg2 Nd7 40.Bh3 Nxf6 41.Rf1 Ke7 42.Rc1 Ne8 43.Ra1 Re3 44.Bg2 Nf6 45.Rc1 Ng4+ 46.Kh3 Kd8 47.Rf1 f6 48.Bf3 f5 49.exf5 gxf5 50.Kg2 Rxa3 0–1

Rapid Chess Tournament WV (November 5)

The latest rapid event organized by Luc Poitras at the West Vancouver United Church attracted seventeen players, including three former BC champions. IM Raymond Kaufman won with five wins in six games, his only loss coming to German exchange student Maximilian Mueller in the fifth round. Second, a mere half point behind, was Bhell Ortiz, while Zachary Liu, Zhengyu Chen, and Mueller tied for third on 4.0 points. The next such event is scheduled for December 17.

World Senior Championship (October 25 – November 5)

Youth and age – like the WYCC mentioned above, this year's World Senior Championships were held in Italy, specifically Terrasini, a suburb of Palermo on the island of Sicily. Some two hundred and fifty players competed in the 50+, 65+ and women's categories including nine Canadians, IMs David Cummings and Thanh Nha Duong, FMs Dale Haessel, Marcel Milat, and Victor Plotkin, and David Filipovich and Yves Morin in the 50+ category, and IM Leon Piasetski and Ian Finlay in the 65+. Both categories had clear favourites in English GMs Michael Adams and John Nunn; both finished first, but had to go to tiebreaks to do so. In the 50+ Adams tied for first with GM Suat Atalik on 8.5/11 and needed the third tiebreak to claim first place. Top Canadian was Cummings who tied for fifth place with 7.5 points, while Plotkin and Haessel both scored 6.0 points. 1999 BC Champion

Marcel Milat has only returned to chess recently; he scored 50% without playing the last two rounds, but he and Plotkin had the satisfaction of drawing with American GM Maxim Dlugy in consecutive rounds. John Nunn became 65+ champion on the second tiebreak after he and GM Lubomir Ftacnik both scored 8.5 points – older readers may remember Ftacnik as winner of the 1991 and 1992 Keres Memorial tournaments at Robson Square. Leon Piasetski did not have a good event and stopped playing after the rest day following round six.

Dlugy, Maxim (2520) – Milat, Marcel (2207) [A45] World Senior 50+ 31st Terrasini (2.2), 26.10.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.dxc5 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Nb5 0–0 7.c3 Ne4 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Nbd4 Nxc5 10.Be2 Qb6 11.Nb3 e5 12.Bg3 d4 13.Nxc5 Qxc5 14.cxd4 Qb4+ 15.Qd2 exd4 16.Qxb4 Nxb4 17.Bd6 Nc2+ 18.Kd2 Nxa1 19.Bxf8 dxe3+ 20.fxe3 Kxf8 21.Nd4 Bd7 ½–½

Halloween Chess Fest (October 29)

To celebrate Halloween the Fraser Valley Chess Academy organized a chess workshop followed by a CFC-rated blitz tournament – there were also prizes for best costumes. In the blitz event Zachary Liu had a scary performance, giving up just a single draw in thirteen rounds to place first with 12.5 points. Second a point and a half back was Ryan Leong, while even further back were Ilan Keshet and Mayo Fuentebella. Twenty-nine players participated.

Langley Chess Club Championship (October 2-30) by Brian Davidson

In October, the Langley Chess Club held its first championship tournament since 2019. It was a six round Swiss attended by twelve club members. When the dust had settled, fifteen-year-old Kai Johannes Kwabi was the winner with a score of 4.0/5. Second place was a tie between James Kerry and Brian Davidson, at 3.5/5. Kai is one of a handful of juniors to win the Langley Club title, joining John and Neil Doknjas and Tanraj Sohal.

Brian Davidson, Kai Kwabi, Brian McLaren (photo by Joanne Hall)

Kerry, James (1810) – Kwabi, Kai Joannes (1345) [C02] Langley Club ch Langley (5), 30.10.2023 *[Kai Kwabi, Brian McLaren, Stockfish 16]*

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Bd7 In a previous game between these two opponents, the Milner-Barry Gambit was played. The simple variation, chosen here, strives to trade off the bad bishop. **6.Bd3 Bb5 7.0–0** 7.dxc5! Bxc5 8.b4 is a little more challenging for Black. **7...Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Nc6 9.Be3** 9.dxc5+= was preferable. 9...Bxc5 10.b4 **9...Rc8 10.Nbd2**

10…Nb8? The plan here was to recycle the knight to d7 and open up the rook. Better is10...cxd4= 11.cxd4 Nge7 **11.dxc5?** White could have taken advantage of Black's lack of development with 11.c4!+– opening up the position. **11...Bxc5+= 12.Nd4** Threatening Nb5. **12...Nc6 13.f4?!** 13.Nxc6+/= Rxc6 *(if 13...Bxe3 then 14.Nxa7 Qxa7 15.Qxe3 Qxe3 16.fxe3+/-)* 14.Bxc5 Rxc5 15.Rad1+/= **13...Nge7** Better is 13...Bxd4=/+ 14.Bxd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 16.cxd4 Nh6 **14.N2f3=** Better is 14.N2b3!+/= Bxd4 15.Nxd4 **14...g6** 14...Qxb2= was superior, e.g., 15.Rfb1 Qa3 16.Nb5 Bxe3+ 17.Qxe3 Nf5 18.Qf2 Qa4 19.g4 **15.Kh1=** 15.b4 Bxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 **15...Nf5** 15...Qxb2? 16.Rfb1 Qa3 17.Nb5+– *(17.Rxb7 Bxd4 18.Nxd4 0–0=)*; 15...h5=; 15...a6=; 15...Bxd4= **16.Nxf5 gxf5 17.Bxc5 Qxc5 18.Rg1** White now chose to open lines on the kingside to access the weak black squares. However, he also is exposing his own king. More circumspect was 18.Rad1 **18...Rg8 19.g4?!** 19.b4 deserved consideration. 19...Qc4 20.Qxc4 dxc4 21.Rgd1 **19...Rxg4= 20.Rxg4 fxg4 21.Ng5 h6** Black has the initiative. **22.Nh7** Avoiding the trap 22.Nxf7? Kxf7 23.Qh7+ Ke8–+ **22...Ke7 23.Qg3?!** Prevents Qf2, however 23.Nf6= is better. **23...Kd7** 23...d4!? 24.Nf6 **24.Nf6+-/+ Kc7 25.Qxg4** 25.Nxg4 h5=/+] **25...d4?** [25...Qc4–+ Threatening to win with ...Ne7. 26.Qf3 *(26.Qg7 Kb8 27.Qxf7 d4 28.cxd4 Nxd4 29.Qg6 Nf5 30.Qg4 a6 31.Nd7+ Kc7 32.Qd1 Qe4+ 33.Kg1 Rg8+)* 26...Ne7 **26.Qg1** 26.Ne4!= remains equal. 26...Qb6 27.cxd4 **26...Rd8 27.Rd1?** 27.Ne4-/+ Qd5 28.Qg2 **27...Qc4–+**

Strongly threatening ...Qe2. **28.cxd4 Rxd4?** Giving away his advantage. Black should try 28...Qxa2–+ ...Qb3 is the strong threat. 29.Qg3 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 Qb1+ 31.Qg1 Qxg1+ 32.Kxg1 Nxd4 **29.b3?!** 29.Ne8+!= Kd8 30.Nf6 **29...Qc3=/+** Threatening ...Qf3+ **30.Rxd4** Better is 30.Rf1 **30...Nxd4 31.Qd1?** Preventing 31...Ne2 (31.Qf2-/+) **31...Qe3–+ 32.f5** Better is 32.Nh5 Qf2 33.h3 **32...Qxe5 33.Qc1+ Kd8 34.Qxh6 Qe1+ 35.Kg2 Qe2+** A tense last-round encounter with chances for both sides. **0–1**

Kai Johannes is representing the deaf/blind, physically disabled and autistic community. He has shown a great dedication to chess and is improving rapidly. For his efforts he won a trophy and entry into the 2024 Langley Open, August 31 - September 2, 2024.

2023 BC JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (November 18-19)

(photo by Michael Lo)

Held once more under the auspices of the Chess2Inspire organization and held at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby, the BC Junior Championship kept the same format as in recent years: a Championship Section (rated over 1300 CFC), a Reserve Section (rated over 700) and a Booster (under 700 or unrated). The biggest difference this year was the time control in the Booster; normally it is a one day, rapid-style event, but as a separate room was not available all three sections used the same time controls – 50 + 10 on the Saturday and 90 + 30 on Sunday. The thirty-nine player Championship Section included three masters and eight players over 2000 but Jingyun (Ryan) Yang was the class of the field, becoming BC Junior Champion with a convincing 5.0/5 and also qualifying for next year's BC Closed. Tied for second with 4.0 points were Reece Harms and Matthew He, with Reece getting the nod on tiebreaks. Reece also pushed his rating over 2000 for the first time – not bad for someone whose first tournament was less than eighteen months ago. Kate Jiang was the Top Girl, Frank Zhou and Andre Dossa were First and Second U1800 respectively (despite both being U1500), Henry Zhou and Huy Minh Vu claimed the U1500 prizes and Abigail Wang was the Top Girl U1800.

The Reserve Section attracted sixty-nine entrants and resulted in a three-way tie at the top between Ethan Jun Low, Aadit Arya, and Panshul Mishra Jaiman – each scored 4.5 points. After tiebreaks were applied Ethan was First, Panshul Second, and Aadit the First U1000. Joanne Wangluo was the Top Girl, Ryder Hsu Second U1000, and Joanne's sister May Wangluo the Top Girl U1000. The Booster Section was the largest of the three sections with ninety participants. There were, in total, twenty-one prizes. Errol Zeng, Entong Tian, Karson Lu, Kanav Singh Kapur, and Zhenhao Li placed First to Fifth respectively, while Top Girls overall were Siyona Singh and Joanne Xu. For U500 Yunhao Tan, Zi Tian Chen, Alexander Lu, Joonki Park, and Vincent Tian were the place winners, and Genevieve Tang and Rayna Li were the Top Girls, while for unrated players Gaoqi Zhang, Derek Xu, Seshadri Sai Sowmiya Narayanan, Joel Lee, and Yuziang Su won the place prizes and Kay Leung and Hannah Rajaei were the Top Girls.

Many thanks to all the organizers and volunteers who helped make the event happen: Ron Hui, Ryan Leong, Lara Lo, Michael Lo, Ryan Lo, An Yu, and Ping Yu. Thanks also to Curtis Lister of the Burnaby Junior Chess for taking care of the skittles rooms and all the players and parents.

Qu, Leo (2227) – Yang, Jingyun [Ryan] (2217) [D00] BC jun Burnaby (5.1), 19.11.2023

1.d4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.Nb5 Na6 5.e3 c6 6.Nc3 Qb6 7.Rb1 Bd7 8.Nf3 Rc8 9.a3 c5 10.Be2 Nb8 11.h3 cxd4 12.exd4 Nc6 13.0–0 Be7 14.Be3 0–0 15.Ne5 Rfd8 16.Bd3 Be8 17.Ne2 Qc7 18.f4 Ne4 19.c3 f5 20.Kh2 Nxe5 21.fxe5 Bh5 22.Qe1 Bxe2 23.Qxe2 Rf8 24.Rbc1 Bh4 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.c4 Be7 27.Kh1 Kh8 28.Qd2 Rcd8 29.Rfd1 Rd7 30.b4 Rfd8 31.Qb2 Qb6 32.Qc3 Qa6 33.Rd2 Kg8 34.Kh2 g5 35.g3 Qc6 36.Qb2 Qa4 37.Qa2 f4 38.gxf4 gxf4 39.Bxf4 Rxd4 40.Rxd4 Rxd4 41.Rg1+ Kf7 42.Qf2 Rd3 43.Qg2 Ke8 44.Bg5 Qd7 45.Bxe7 Rd2 46.Bd6 Rxg2+ 47.Rxg2 Qf7 48.Kg1 Qh5 49.Rg3 Qd1+ 50.Kh2 Qd2+ 51.Rg2 e3 52.Bc5 e2 53.Bf2 e1Q 0–1

Harms, Reece (1883) – Wu, Nathan Ping-Ying (2053) [B01] BC jun Burnaby (5.4), 19.11.2023

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.d4 Bg4 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.0–0 e6 8.h3 Bh5 9.Nb5 Qb6 10.c4 c6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.b3 0–0 13.Bb2 Rfd8 14.Qd2 Bxf3 15.Na4 Qc7 16.Bxf3 Ne5 17.Be2 c5 18.Qe3 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Nc6 20.Bc3 e5 21.Rad1 Bb4 22.Bb2 Qe7 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Rd1 Rxd1+ 25.Bxd1 Qd6 26.Bf3 Nd7 27.Bd5 a6 28.Nb6 Bc5 29.Qf3 Nf6 30.Bxc6 bxc6 31.Na4 Bd4 32.Qe2 h6 33.c5 Qd5 34.Qxa6 Ne4 35.Bxd4 exd4 36.Qc4 Qxc4 37.bxc4 Nc3 38.Nb2 Nxa2 39.Kf1 Nc3 40.Nd3 Ne4 41.Ke2 f6 42.Nb4 Nxc5 43.Nxc6 d3+ 44.Ke3 Ne4 45.Kxd3 Nxf2+ 46.Ke3 Nd1+ 47.Kd4 Kf7 48.Nb4 Nb2 49.Nd3 Na4 50.c5 g5 51.Kc4 Ke6 52.Kb4 Nxc5 53.Kxc5 Kf5 54.Kd5 h5 55.g3 Kg6 56.Ke6 f5 57.h4 f4 58.Nxf4+ Kh6 59.Kf6 gxh4 60.gxh4 Kh7 61.Nxh5 Kh6 62.Nf4 Kh7 63.Kg5 Kg7 64.h5 Kh7 65.h6 Kg8 66.Kg6 Kh8 67.Ne6 Kg8 68.Ng5 Kh8 69.Nf7+ Kg8 70.h7+ 1–0

VANCOUVER CHESS FESTIVAL #3 (November 11-12)

There were a few tweaks to the format of Vancouver Chess School Festival #3: the time control for the Classical Open was changed from 60 + 30 to 50 + 10, same as the other Classical Sections, to allow for five rounds over the weekend. And the Blitz event was replaced this time by the first Regional Qualifier for the 2023-34 Canadian Chess Challenge. Festival #3 occurred on the Remembrance Day weekend at UBC's Ponderosa Ballroom which coincided with the Banff Open and the Jack Taylor Memorial (Sidney) but still managed to attract one hundred and five players in five sections. The thirteen player Classical Open was won by Jingyun (Ryan) Yang with 4.5/5, a full point ahead of Zachary Liu, Erwin Mok, and Felipe Komatu who tied for second and third. Bhell Ortiz won the Classical U1800 for a second time, although this time he gave up a quick last-round draw; Jofrel Landingin and Richard Ingram tied for second. And Markus Li was the perfect winner of the Classical U1000, followed by Rafael Yen and Jason Han. Only four entered the Rapid Open so the section was run as a double round robin. IM Vicente Lee jr. repeated his victory from the previous festival by scoring three wins and three draws while Leo Qu and Tadas Ceponis tied for second place. Finally, the Rapid U1400 saw newcomer Cole Louie take the top prize with a perfect score, Alex Yu was second, and Ben Wang third. Watch for Vancouver Chess Festival #4 next weekend.

2023 JACK TAYLOR MEMORIAL (November 11-12) by Paul Leblanc
Jason Williamson and Amirmasoud Tirehkar Notch Perfect Scores

This year's Jack Taylor Memorial, the thirty-eighth in a series dating back to 1984, was held at the Mary Winspear Community Centre in Sidney on the weekend of 11-12 November. Attendance (fifty-three players) was the lowest since 2015 for various reasons. On the plus side, spacing in the tournament room was quite generous and the prize fund was not scooped up by the usual chess

masters. Jason Williamson of Nanaimo had an impressive tournament and some quite exciting games including an incredible come-from-behind victory against Peter Mingrone and a queen sacrifice against NM Roger Patterson. He finished at 5.0-0.0 and a $600 first prize.

Jason Williamson with Organizer Paul Leblanc and TD Nigel Hanrahan; Amirmasoud Tirehkar

Peter Mingrone of Victoria, Ryan Leong of Richmond and Amadeus Matz, visiting from Germany tied for second in the Premier Section, at 4.0-1.0, one point behind Williamson. The U1200 Section was won with a 5.0-0.0 score by Amirmasoud Tirehkar of Victoria, a new and welcome addition to the local chess scene. Micah Chow of Vancouver finished second at 4.0-1.0.

Mingrone, Peter (1725) – Williamson, Jason (1874) [B33] Jack Taylor mem 38th Sidney (3.1), 11.11.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 b5 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bxb5 axb5 12.Nxb5 Ra4 13.Nbc7+ Kd7 14.0–0 Rxe4 15.Qh5 Nd4 16.c3 Ne2+ 17.Kh1 Kc6 18.g3 Rg4 19.Rfe1 Nf4 20.gxf4 Bb7 21.Qxf7 Rg7 22.Qh5 Rxc7 23.Nxc7 Kxc7+ 24.f3 Qd7 25.fxe5 dxe5 26.Rxe5 Bc8 27.Ree1 Bc5 28.Rad1 Qc6 29.Qf7+ Kb8 30.Qd5 Bb7 31.Qxc6 Bxc6 32.Rd3 Kc7 33.b4 Rd8 34.bxc5 Rxd3 35.Re7+ Rd7 36.Re3 f4 37.Re1 Bxf3+ 38.Kg1 Rd1 39.Rxd1 Bxd1 40.Kg2 Kc6 41.a4 Bxa4 42.Kf3 Kxc5 43.Kxf4 Kc4 44.Kg5 Kxc3 45.Kh6 Bc2 0–1

Williamson, Jason (1874) – Patterson, Roger (2014) [B22] Jack Taylor mem 38th Sidney (5.1), 12.11.2023 *[Jason Williamson]*

1.e4 [0.36/0] **c5** [0.32/0] **2.Nf3** [0.00/0] **e6** [0.00/0] **3.c3** [0.17/0] **Nf6** [0.18/0] **4.e5** [0.15/0] **Nd5** [0.09/0] **5.d4** [0.00/0] **cxd4** [0.24/0] **6.cxd4** [0.17/0] **d6** [0.14/0] **7.Nc3** [0.00/0] **Nxc3** [0.12/0] **8.bxc3** [0.09/0] **Be7** [0.52/0] **9.Bd3** [0.45/0] **Nd7** [0.38/0] **10.exd6** [0.59/0] **Bxd6** [0.04/0] **11.Qc2** [0.11/0] **h6** [0.19/0] **12.0–0** [0.25/0] **0–0** [0.52/0] **13.c4** [0.07/0] **b6** [0.00/0] **14.Bb2** [0.18/0] **Bb7** [0.13/0] **15.Be4** 15.Bh7 is a little finesse that I missed. It is better to have the black king forced to the long diagonal with the bishop staring at it. 15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Be4 [0.03/0] **15...Qc7** [0.16/0] **16.Bxb7** [0.18/0] **Qxb7** [0.21/0] **17.d5** [0.19/0] **e5** 17...exd5 18.cxd5 Qxd5 19.Rad1 [0.07/0] **18.Nh4** [0.00/0] **Nc5?** Mistake. 18…Rfe8 was best. 18...Rfe8 19.Nf5 Bf8 20.a4 Rac8 The engine calls this equal

but I think I would prefer white here against humans. [1.15/0] **19.Nf5** [1.19/0] **Qd7** [0.73/0] **20.f4** [0.82/0]

20…Rae8?? Blunder. f6 was best. 20...f6 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.Rae1 White is just a bit better. [3.35/0] **21.Rf3** 21.Nxd6 Qxd6 22.fxe5⬜ [2.63/0] **21...g6?!** Inaccuracy. 21…f6 was best. 21...f6 22.Rg3 Re7 23.fxe5 fxe5 24.Rf1 Rxf5 25.Qxf5 Qxf5 26.Rxf5 Ne4 27.Rg4 Nd2 28.Bc3 [3.39/0] **22.Nxd6** [3.48/0] **Qxd6** [3.56/0] **23.fxe5** [3.46/0] **Rxe5** [3.57/0] **24.Bxe5** [3.51/0] **Qxe5** [3.29/0] **25.Raf1** [2.78/0] **Ne4** [2.98/0] **26.Rf4** [2.84/0] **f5?** Mistake. 26…Nd6 was best. 26...Nd6 27.Qf2 h5 28.Qe1 Qg5 29.h4 Qd8 30.Qg3 Qe7 31.Qg5 Re8 [4.77/0] **27.Qxe4!** [4.87/0] **1–0**

VANCOUVER CHESS FESTIVAL #2 (October 28-29)

The Vancouver Chess School's Festival #2 followed exactly the same format as Festival #1 the previous month – Classical, Rapid, and Blitz events in seven individual sections and a $5,500 guaranteed prize fund. The weekend also coincided with a full moon. Whether this had any effect on the games is unclear, but at 7:06pm on the Sunday evening, while a round of the Blitz tournament was in progress and games from the Classical Open were finishing up, the fire alarm sounded. Clocks were paused and the Ponderosa Ballroom evacuated; it took the fire department thirty minutes to determine the cause was a burnt meal in the kitchen of a nearby student residence before we were allowed to continue.

The nineteen-player Classical Open included nine players over 2000 and a time control of 60 + 30. Top-ranked IM Raymond Kaufman lost in the first round to Ashton Taylor, and after three rounds it was Nathan Ping-Ying Wu who led the field with a perfect score. In the last round he was paired with his closest rival, CM Arpak Mohammed Qanee; Arpak won to claim the first prize, while Nathan had to be content with sharing the second and third prizes with Raymond, Tadas Ceponis, and Aiden Leong. The other two Classical Sections were played at the minimum time control for regular rating, 50 + 10. Bhell Ortiz put up a perfect picket fence in winning the U1800 Section 5.0/5, while Gideon Tang, Boyong Guo, Daniel Dou, Dawson Yamasaki, Tony Dong, and Henry Zhou shared the remaining prizes. And it was a four-way tie for first in the U1000 Section between May Wangluo, Evan Geng, Aiden Lu, and Tiago Ferraz.

Ties were also the order of the day in the Rapid Sections. IM Vicente Lee jr. managed to stay a half-point ahead of NM Mayo Fuentebella to win the Rapid Open, Mayo was second, while Kevin Low, Jingyun (Ryan) Yang, Henry Yang, and Caden Gee spit the third prize. The U1400 Rapid resulted in victory for Seyed Hamidreza Mirpoorian with a perfect score, and the quartet of Nijat Ibrahimov, Rio Vilches, Eamon Sheung, and Alex Xu. And finally, the Blitz Open saw Zachary Liu defeat IM Raymond Kaufman in the last round to claim first, while Raymond split second and third

with Leo Qu. In the [Blitz U1400](#) Dasha Doroshenko and Yuan Jaydon tied for first, Mark Karaivanov was third, and medals were won by Hector Moses (U1000), Jasper Chen (U600), and Daniel Musakhanyan (unrated).

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BC Junior Winter Rapid Championship

Langley, Dec. 3, 10, 17
[Details](#)

Vancity Rapid Championship + Bullet

UBC, December 3
[Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival #4

Vancouver, December 9-10
[Details](#)

Victoria CC Rapid Fundraiser

Esquimalt, December 16
[Details](#)

Rapid Chess Tournament WV

West Vancouver, December 17
[Details](#)

3rd Annual Blendz Memorial Tournament

Online, December 23
[Details](#)

Christmas Rapid

Langley, December 24
[Details](#)

Goodbye 2023 FIDE/CFC Open

Langley, December 28-30
[Details](#)

New Year Open

Richmond, January 4-6, 2024
[Details](#)

Rapid Chess Tournament WV

West Vancouver, January 7, 2024
[Details](#)

Greater Vancouver Tournament #4

Burnaby, January 20-21, 2024
[Details](#)

Victoria Championship

Sidney, January 20-21, 2024
[Details](#)

Vancouver Chess Festival #5

Vancouver, January 27-28, 2024
[Details](#)

RCC Elite Championship #1

Richmond, February 11, 2024
[Details](#)