

## BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #477

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](mailto:swright2@telus.net)); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.



BC Chess Federation

Stephen Wright

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### HERE AND THERE

#### Langley Winter Classic Open (January 12 - February 9)



(photo by [chess maps](#))

The latest classical event at the [Langley Chess Club](#) was won by James Kerry with 4.0 out of 5, a point ahead of the five(!) players who tied for second: Luis Eduardo Azmitia, Peter Gibson, Brian Davidson, Anthony Varga, and Norman Batisse. Thirteen players took part in the multi-week tournament. The [Spring Classic](#) begins on April 13, but before that are the Langley Winter Quads commencing on February 23. [Standings](#)

#### Kelowna Winter Rapid (February 7) [Details](#)

The latest event in this province arranged by peripatetic organizer Daniel Rokhvarger took place at the Kelowna Downtown Library on Saturday February 7, a rapid tournament in two sections. Top-ranked in the thirty-three player [Open Section](#) was Alp Topcu who duly placed first with a perfect score; second was shared between Daniel Gyori (gaining 162 rating points), Jerritt Cloney, Scott Wilson, Craig Bacon, and John Mackey. There were only six entrants in the [Junior Section](#), resulting in a round robin; the prize winners were Jackson Drolet, Vaishnav Konepally, and Brady Pritchard. Watch for Daniel's next event, the BC February Frosty Chess Festival, at Langara College in Vancouver on the last two weekends in February.

## **Prince George Rapid** (February 7)

Since last summer the Prince George Chess Club has been promoting chess in the area through a series of tournaments, rated or otherwise. February 7 saw the [Prince George Rapid Open](#), hosted by Great White Toys in the Spruceland Shopping Centre in Prince George. The thirteen-player event was won by Andrew McMullin with a perfect 6.0/6, second was Jackson Allabarton and third was shared between organizer/TD Roman Baca and Nick Campbell. The next Prince George tournament is the [Northern BC Classic](#) at the same location beginning on February 21 and continuing February 28 and March 7.

## **Chateau Victoria Rapid III** (February 1) by Paul Leblanc **The return of WFM Valeria Gansvind**

For the third time in two years, Victoria Chess held one of our periodic rapid tournaments at the Chateau Victoria on February 1, 2026. Nowadays most tournaments have migrated to recreation centers or schools in order to cope with the rising cost of meeting room rental but once in a while it is nice to treat ourselves to a more sumptuous location. The tournament sold out the entire capacity of forty-four players several days beforehand but ended with forty-two due to a couple of late withdrawals.

A pleasant surprise was the return to action of WFM Valeria Gansvind, whose FIDE Federation is Estonia but divides her time between Sidney, Estonia and Russia. This was her first CFC event since August 2023. To make it a family event her husband Alexander Rabinovich and their daughter Inna Rabinovich also participated. Valeria brought gold, silver and bronze chess medallions, as a contribution to the tournament. Not surprisingly, she won gold but a tie-break formula was needed to allocate the medals as two other players, Denis Shumeyko (silver) and Emilian Holmgren (bronze) tied with her for first place with scores of 5.0-1.0.



Medal winners WFM Valeria Gansvind gold (centre), Denis Shumeyko silver (left), Emilian Holmgren bronze (right). Organizer Paul Leblanc in background. (photo: Michael Beaulieu)

Top U1600 player was Ned Taylor at 3.5 out of 6 and top U1400 was Inna Rabinovich, also 3.5. Top unrated was a tie between Rob Thomas and Travis MacLean with 3.0.

The format was six rounds with time control of 25 minutes and 5 second increments. There was a modest prize fund of \$400 and some chess books with a small surplus going to the Victoria Chess Club to help with rent. Tournament Director was Michael Beaulieu and organizer was Paul Leblanc.  
[Standings](#)

### **9<sup>th</sup> Montevideo Open “Antel Cup”** (January 30 – February 7)

IM Leon Piasetski took a break from the Canadian winter by participating in the ninth edition of the Montevideo Open, this year named the “Antel Cup” (Antel is the Uruguayan state-owned telecommunications company. Leon also played in the 2023 and 2024, held those years in honour of artist and chessplayer Marcel Duchamp. This year’s [Open](#) attracted seventy-nine players including five GMs and nine IMs. The two top-ranked players, GM Johan-Sebastian Christiansen (Norway) and GM Brandon Jacobson (USA), met in round six, Jacobson was victorious and ultimately took first place with 7.5/9 while Christiansen had to be content with a second-place tie alongside IM Bernardo Roselli Mailhe (Uruguay) and GM Leonardo Tristan (Argentina); Leon scored 5.0 points, tying for twentieth in the final standings.

### **Piasetski, Leon (2151) – Rodi, Luis Ernesto (2248) [A22] Montevideo op 9th (6.9), 04.02.2026**

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d3 Bb4 4.Bd2 Nc6 5.g3 0–0 6.Bg2 Re8 7.Nf3 Nd4 8.Nxd4 exd4 9.Nb5 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 c5 11.Nd6 Re6 12.Nxb7 Bxb7 13.Bxb7 Rb8 14.Bf3 Reb6 15.b3 Rb4 16.0–0 a5 17.e3 a4 18.exd4 axb3 19.axb3 cxd4 20.Qf4 Qb6 21.Ra3 h6 22.Rfa1 Rxb3 23.Rxb3 Qxb3 24.Qxd4 Qb4 25.Kg2 Re8 26.Ra6 Re6 27.Rxe6 fxe6 28.Qe3 Qc3 29.h4 Qa5 30.g4 Kf7 31.c5 Qb4 32.d4 Qb8 33.g5 hxg5 34.hxg5 Ng8 35.Be4 g6 36.Qf3+ Kg7 37.Qg3 Qd8 38.Qe5+ Kh7 39.d5 Ne7 40.Qf6 Qe8 41.dxe6 dxe6 42.Qxe6 Qd8 43.Qd6 Qe8 44.c6 Qf7 45.c7 Nc8 46.Qh2+ Kg8 47.Qe5 1–0

### **Fraser Valley Classical 5** (January 24-25)



(photo by [chess maps](#))

The weekend of January 24-25 turned out to be busy for BC chess players, with a total of four possible events in which to participate. In Langley one new element in the FVCA's latest classical event was the introduction of age-restricted sections, thus giving juniors the choice between competing against their peers or joining the [Open Section](#). Highest ranked in the latter was NM Yidong Chen by over 300 rating points and unsurprisingly he finished first with a perfect 6.0/6, second was Ameet Kumar Dalal with Rishab Ganesh third. Tied for fourth was Harjaap Singh, who lost to the three players above him but won his other three games, gaining 220 rating points in the process. The remaining junior sections all saw ties for first. In the [U12 Section](#) Felix Fang and Kanish Raj Sathish Raj both scored 5.5 points, far ahead of Noah Li and Eden Chi on 3.5/6. The [U09 Section](#) was won by Oscar Yulang Shi and Echo Heming Fang, while five of the remaining seven players in the field tied for third on 3.0 points: Amrith Arun, Rudwin Suresh Rathinam, Ty Shanmugam, Ian Chen, and Liam Khang Pham. Finally, Ameet Kumar Dalal scored a perfect 7.0/7 in the adjunct [Blitz](#) event ahead of Felix Fang and Rishab Ganesh. A total of forty-eight players participated in the various sections.

#### **LIC Invitational #4** (January 24-25)



First held last summer, the Lulu Island Chess Invationals have been expanding in size and scope. The fourth edition, held like the last one in the executive boardroom of the Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport on Westminster Highway in Richmond, saw the tournament split into two sections, more than doubling the number of participants in Invitational #3. The [top section](#), restricted to players rated over 1950, included two of our newly-minted National Masters but was won by the trio of Aiden Yin, Zhengyu Chen, and Samuel Lu, Aiden placing first on tiebreak, they all scored 4.0 points. Similarly, the [1600-1900](#) Section was won by Ryan Golchin on tiebreak over Moses Li and Nathan Yang who all finished with 4.5 points.

#### **Coquitlam Rapid** (January 25)

From Gyuwon Lee on [Facebook](#): "The inaugural edition of Coquitlam Rapid has come to a close. Despite many other chess tournaments being held on the same day, there were thirty-eight players playing in Coquitlam Rapid 1, including three titled players, a great turnout! After five rounds of

chess, Joshua Rubin climbed to the top with a perfect 5.0/5! Following a point behind for second place were Peter Qian Cheng, Zachary Liu, Arliegh Samson, Murray Chu, and Vaclav Sladek. The Top female prize went to Tanya Noakes, and the top senior prize went to Dejan Radic, with 2.0/5 and 3.5/5 respectively. Finally, the top junior prize was shared by Leo Lei, Sion Park, and Ryan Li, all on 3.5/5. Congratulations to all the winners! I am truly grateful for every single player who decided to attend the event, and I hope to see you all next time. Any feedback or suggestions for improvements to future tournaments would be greatly welcome! [A more detailed report](#)



### **PCC Rapid and Meetup** (January 25)

The latest Penny Chess Club meetup saw Penny herself join the competition, unsurprisingly winning the eight-player [Premier Section](#) with a perfect 5.0/5; Ryder Hsu was second and Aiden Zhu third. The [U1400 Section](#) also saw a perfect score, this time by Aayush Sinha, while Oliver Wang and Amish Devarajan tied for second a point back; twenty-eight participated.

### **BC Chess Cup** (January 10-11)



Organized by the Penny Chess Club and held at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby, the BC Chess Cup was intended mainly as a qualifying event for the CYCC but also included a [Champion Section](#) open to adults as well as strong juniors. Among the twenty-nine players participating in the section were four masters but it was NM Zachary Liu and WIM Penny Pham who dominated the field, drawing with each other and winning their remaining games to finish with 4.5/5 – Zachary placed first on tiebreaks. Third on tiebreak was Barath Subramanian Suresh ahead of Aiden Hao-Ting Lu, both scored 4.0 points. The CYCC qualifying results can be found on the [tournament website](#).

### **Yao, Lucas (2101) – Liu, Zachary (2236) [B44] BC Chess Cup Burnaby (5.1), 11.01.2026**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Nf6 7.N5c3 Be7 8.Be2 0–0 9.0–0 a6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.Nd2 Rd8 12.Rc1 Ne5 13.Qb3 Nfd7 14.Rfd1 Nc5 15.Qc2 b6 16.b4 Ncd7 17.Qb3 Rb8 18.a3 Ng6 19.Qa2 h6 20.f4 Nf6 21.Qb1 d5 22.cxd5 Nxf4 23.Bf3 e5 24.Na4 Qa7 25.Nc4 Bg4 26.Ncxb6 Bxf3 27.gxf3 Ne2+ 28.Kf2 Nxc1 29.Rxc1 Bd6 30.Rc6 Qe7 31.Qg1 Ne8 32.Qg4 f5 33.Qxf5 Nc7 34.Qg6 Nb5 35.Bc5 Bxc5+ 36.bxc5 Nd4 37.Rd6 Rxd6 38.cxd6 Qf8 39.Qh5 Qxd6 40.Nc4 Qf6 41.Nxe5 Qf4 42.Ng6 Qf7 43.f4 Re8 44.Nc5 Qc7 45.d6 Qxd6 46.Qd5+ Qxd5 47.exd5 Kf7 48.Ne5+ Ke7 49.Nc4 Nf5 50.Nxa6 Rc8 51.Nb6 Rc2+ 52.Kg1 Rc1+ 53.Kf2 Rc2+ 54.Kg1 Kd6 55.Nb4 Rc3 56.Kf2 Nd4 57.Ke1 Rh3 58.Kd2 Rxh2+ 59.Kd3 Nb5 60.a4 Na7 61.Kd4 Rh1 62.Nc4+ Kd7 63.Kc5 Rc1 64.Nd3 Ra1 65.Nde5+ Kd8 66.a5 h5 67.Ng6 Rh1 68.Nf8 h4 69.Ne6+ Ke7 70.Nxg7 h3 71.d6+ Kf7 72.Nf5 Rd1 73.Ng3 h2 74.Kb6 Rg1 75.d7 Ke7 76.Kc7 Nc6 77.Ne5 Nd8 78.Ng6+ Kf6 79.Kxd8 Rxd8 80.Kc7 Rc3+ 81.Kb6 Rd3 82.Ne5 h1Q 83.Nxd3 Qb1+ 84.Kc7 Qc2+ 85.Kb8 Qxd3 86.a6 Qd6+ 87.Kb7 Qxd7+ 88.Kb8 Qc6 89.a7 Qb6+ 90.Ka8 Qc7 91.f5 Qc8# 0–1

### **Pham, Bich Ngoc (2309) – Chen, Yidong (2266) [A05] BC Chess Cup Burnaby (5.2), 11.01.2026**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b5 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.d3 c5 5.e4 d6 6.a4 b4 7.0–0 g6 8.Be3 Bg7 9.Qc1 Ng4 10.Bd2 0–0 11.h3 Nf6 12.Bh6 a5 13.Qe3 Nbd7 14.Nbd2 Nb6 15.b3 Qc7 16.Nh2 Rfe8 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.f4 e6 19.e5 Nfd5 20.Qf2 f5 21.exd6 Qxd6 22.Nc4 Qc7 23.Ne5 Nc3 24.Bxb7 Qxb7 25.Rae1 Rac8 26.Nhf3 Ncd5 27.Nd2 Qc7 28.Ndc4 Nxc4 29.Nxc4 Nb6 30.Ne5 Nd7 31.g4 Nxe5 32.Rxe5 Qd6 33.Rfe1 Qc6 34.R1e3 Kf7 35.Qh4 Kg8 36.Kh2 Rcd8 37.Qe1 fxd4 38.hxd4 Qc7 39.Qg3 Rf8 40.R3e4 Rd4 41.Qe3 Rxe4 42.Qxe4 Qd8 43.Kg3 Qd4 44.Qxd4 cxd4 45.Rxa5 Rc8 46.Rb5 Rxc2 47.Rxb4 Rc3 48.Kf3 Rxd3+ 49.Ke4 Rd1 50.Rxd4 Rb1 51.Rd3 h5 52.g5 Kf7 53.Kd4 Ke7 54.a5 Rf1 55.Kc5 Rxf4 56.a6 Rf8 57.a7 e5 58.b4 Ke6 59.Ra3 1–0

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### **2026 BC RAPID CHAMPIONSHIP (February 1)**

As with last year, the 2026 championship saw continued use of the term “Rapid” rather than “Active” to describe chess with a time control of 15 + 10; incidentally, Rapid was the term used when this championship was first held at Park Royal Shopping Centre in [1990](#), Held for the second year in a row at the popular Bonsor Recreation Complex, this was the first time the Burnaby site had been used by the Vancouver Chess School. The seventy-one player [Open Section](#) included former multiple champions IM Raymond Kaufman, IM Vicente Lee Jr., and FM Tanraj Sohal (making his first chess appearance in this province since 2021) along with another IM, two FMs and six NMs, but it was NM Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, recently returned from Mongolia and playing in his first local event since 2024, who gave up fewer points than his rivals to finish clear first with 6.0 points. Four of the latter tied for second a half-point behind: IM Quang Long Le, IM Raymond Kaufman, FM Jorge Nunez Asencio, and Leo Qu. Top female was NM Kate Jiang. Two of Davaa’s



significant games were technical endings, winning on the superior side of queen versus rook and drawing on the inferior side of rook and bishop versus rook; these two games delayed the tournament considerably, but c'est la vie.

The [U1400 Section](#) was won by Aayush Sinha, also with 6.0/7, Xin Yuan was second and Benjamin Yuan, Andrew Li, Karl Aguirre, and Kabilan Thennarasu tied for third; top female was Yaswitha Suresh. Thirty-five players participated. After the Rapid there was a seven-round Blitz tournament, also in two sections, which attracted fifty-five players. Leo Qu and NM Zachary Liu tied for first in the [Open Section](#), again with 6.0 points, with Zhengyu Chen, NM Ryan Leong, Barath Subramanian Suresh, and Aram Arzumanyan tied for third. The [U1400 Section](#) saw Angelo Landingin and Brandon Ng share first place (I'll leave the reader to guess their score), with Stephen Wong clear third. There was also a Chess Challenge Regional at the same time as the Rapid, results [here](#).

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## **THIS IS HOW YOU GET FROM AMATEUR TO IM** by National Candidate Master Vas Sladek

Two events conspired recently to inspire this bulletin article. One is my friend Nate, who is new to chess and struggling to get past 500 ELO on chess.com. I'm desperately trying to get him to stop donating material to his opponents. The other is the recent, and extremely sad, passing of [GM Jonathan Hawkins](#), on December 22, 2025, from a rare form of cancer.

When Nate asked me how to get to 2000 ELO, I instantly knew the answer: GM Hawkins' impressive 2012 book *Amateur to IM*. At the time of publication, Hawkins was an IM with two GM norms. When I bought the book years ago, I didn't even read the description. All I saw was amateur to IM and I clicked buy. When I opened it up, I was bummed out after discovering that the road to IM-level chess was based on the endgame. But then I started reading it and it blew me away. This is exactly what every ambitious player must know. I think even experienced players might struggle to defend a rook endgame where they are down a minor piece, for example. The chapter on bishops against pawn walls alone is worth the price I paid for the book. R.I.P. GM Hawkins. Now, let's see a few of my recent endgames.



Sladek, Vas – Lagergren, Henry [E49]  
ICCF WS/H/1053 ICCF, 10.10.2025

35.Rc7! Rxb4 36.Rxd7+ Kg6 37.Kf2 a5 38.Ke3 a4  
39.Ra7 Kg5 40.Ra6 a3 41.Rxa3 Kxg4 42.Ke4 Rb1  
43.Rg3+ Kh4 44.Rg7 Re1+ 45.Kd3 Rd1+ 46.Kc4  
Rc1+ 47.Kb5 Kh5 48.Re7 The e-pawn has to go so  
my pawns can run! 48...Rb1+ 49.Kc5 Rc1+ 50.Kd6  
Rd1 51.Kxe6 Rxd4 52.Rxh7+ Kg6 53.Rh3 Kg5  
54.Rg3+ Kf4 55.Kf6 Rd2 56.e6 Rxh2 57.Rg1 1–0



Sladek, Vas – Campani, Paolo [D14]  
CT 24 pr 100 ICCF, 25.11.2024

Another higher-rated opponent refusing draw offers.  
This endgame made me sweat. 26.Rxa4 b6 27.Ra6  
bxc5 28.Rxc5 Rxc5 29.bxc5 Kf7 30.Ra7+ Kg8  
31.Ra5 Kf7 32.Ke2 e5 33.Kd3 Ke6 34.Ra6+ Ke7  
35.Ra5 Kd7 36.e4 Kc6 37.exd5+ Kxd5 38.Ra7 g6  
39.Ra6 e4+ 40.Ke3 Ke5 41.c6 Kd5 42.h4 f5 43.h5  
gxf5 44.Ra5+ Kxc6 45.Rxf5 h4 46.Kxe4 Kd7 47.Rh5  
Ke6 48.Rxh6+ Kf7 49.Ra6 49. Rxh4?? loses 49...Rc1  
50.Ra4 Re1+ 51.Kf4 Rg1 52.Kf3 Rh1 53.Kg4 Rh2  
54.Kf3 Rh1 55.Rb4 Kf6 1/2–1/2



Sladek, Vas – Phillips, Steve [E12]  
2nd DKM 0–2750 12 (BUL) ICCF, 25.01.2025

39.Qxb3 Rg8+ 40.Kf1 Qxe5 41.Qxb6 Qg7 42.Qg6  
Qxg6 43.hxg6 Rxg6 44.Rd5 Rf6 45.Kg2 Kg7 46.f3  
Rg6+ 47.Kf2 Re6 48.Kg3 Rg6+ 49.Kf4 Rf6+ 50.Kg4  
Rc6 51.f4 Rc4 52.a5 Ra4 53.Kg5 Kf7 54.f5 Ra1  
55.Rd7+ Ke8 56.Ra7 Rxa5 57.Kg6 Ra1 58.Ra8+ Kd7  
59.f6 Rg1+ 60.Kf7 Ra1 61.Kg7 Rg1+ 62.Kf8 Ra1  
63.f7 Ra2 64.Kg7 Rg2+ 65.Kh6 Rh2+ 66.Kg5 1–0



Sladek, Vas – Dowling, Shawn [D46]  
2nd DKM 0–2750 13 (BUL) ICCF, 25.01.2025

Black rejected several draw offers... 26.Rd6 Kg7  
27.Nd4 Re8 28.Nf5+ Kg6 29.Nh4+ Kg7 30.Nf5+ Kg6  
1/2–1/2



**BASIC ROOK ENDINGS** by Nick Beqo

**White to move and win**

Answer: The winning method here is 1. Rg3+ -g2-d2  
and Kd7



**White to move and win**

Answer: Since the Black King is on the g-file, White  
wins using Lasker's method: 1.Kf7! Rf1+ 2.Kg6 Re1  
3.Ra4+ Kg3 4.Kf6 Rf1+ 5.Kg5 Re1 6.Ra3+ Kg2  
7.Rxa2+



### White to move and win

The White rook cannot go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank with tempo because the Black King is on the 4<sup>th</sup> rank and the rook cannot check him; the Lasker method does not work because the Black King is not on the g-file but on the h-file and when the White King hides from the checks on h6 (behind the Black King) he will not be able to go from h6 to f6 to protect the pawn, i.e.: 1.Kf7? Rf1+ 2.Kg6 Rg1+ 3.Kh6 Re1 4.Ra4+ Kg3 =

Answer: **1.Ra5!** Zugzwang! (When in doubt play a waiting move 😊) **1...Kh3** If 1... Kg4 see previous diagram. **2.Kf7 Rf1+ 3.Kg6 Re1** (if 3...Rg1+ 4.Kh5 Re1 5.Ra3+ and Rxa2+) **4.Kf6 Rf1+ 5.Kg5 Rg1+ 3.Kh5**

**Nick Beqo, FIDE Instructor**

For private coaching email: [besnik@telus.net](mailto:besnik@telus.net) or visit: [www.facebook.com/nickb.the.coach/](http://www.facebook.com/nickb.the.coach/)

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**COMING EVENTS:** see listings at [CFC](#), [BCCF](#) and [Northwest chess](#) websites

### **BC February Frosty Chess Festival**

Vancouver, February 21, 28, March 1  
[Open](#), [Rapid](#), [Blitz](#), [Bughouse](#)

### **Northen BC Classic**

Prince George, Feb. 21, 28, March 7, [Details](#)

### **PCC Open #6 (CYCC Qualifier)**

Vancouver, February 22, [Details](#)

### **RCC Elite Rapid**

Richmond, February 22, [Details](#)

### **LCC Winter Quads**

Langley, February 23 onwards, [Details](#)

### **Enchanted Labyrinth**

Grand Forks, February 27, [Details](#)

**Fraser Valley Rapid 20 (Junior)**

Port Coquitlam, March 1, [Details](#)

**RCC Elite Championship**

Richmond, March 1, [Details](#)

**PCC Open #7 (CYCC Qualifier)**

Vancouver, March 8, [Details](#)

**Vancouver Island Rapid Championship**

Victoria, March 14, [Details](#)

**BC Top Youth Chess Classic**

Vancouver, March 14-15, [Details](#)

**RCC Elite Rapid**

Richmond, March 15, [Details](#)

**BC Youth Chess Championship**

Burnaby, March 21-22, [Details](#)

**RCC Elite Rapid**

Richmond, March 29, [Details](#)

**Grand Pacific Open**

Victoria, April 3-6, [Details](#)