

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #85

Theoretically there should be an issue of the Bulletin on December 29th, but unless there is something particularly newsworthy in the B.C. chess community in the next two weeks, I will resume publication in the New Year. That being the case, I wish to take this opportunity to wish you all the best of the holiday season - see you in 2006!

To subscribe, send me an e-mail (swright2@telus.net) or sign up via the BCCF (www.chess.bc.ca); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

[Back issues of the Bulletin are available on the above webpage.]

B.C. - WASHINGTON MATCHES

Adult

This year's adult match, the third in a modern series which renews the great international competitions that took place between Washington and B.C. in the 1940s and 50s, was played in Bellingham on December 3rd. The site for the second year in a row was provided by Nick Paleveda of the 412(i) Company; the players agree that the facilities are excellent, and there is talk of holding the match there on a permanent basis.

In the two previous matches B.C. prevailed by identical 6-4 scores, but this year the team was not so fortunate. For whatever reasons a number of B.C.'s stronger players were unavailable for the match, resulting in a team with a significantly lower average rating than last year (2180 compared to 2217 last year). In fairness the Washington team was also slightly weaker than last year (average of 2244 in 2005, down 20 points from 2004), but whereas last year the outrated B.C. players managed to win anyway, this year the team was crushed:

British Columbia Washington

1. Dan Scoones (2290) 0-1 Eric Tangborn (2462)
2. Alfred Pechisker (2252) 0-1 John Readey (2338)
3. Brian McLaren (2232) = Elliott Neff (2263)
4. Paul Brown (2217) 1-0 Harley Greninger (2245)
5. Lucas Davies (2207) 0-1 Nat Koons (2239)
6. Bindi Cheng (2201) 0-1 Bill McGeary (2219)
7. Ian Skulsky (2134) 0-1 David Bragg (2210)
8. Laszlo Tegzes (2109) 0-1 Bruce Kovalsky (2166)
9. Marek Radzikowski (2095) 0-1 Curt Collyer (2164)
10. Hee Seid (2061) 0-1 Nick Paleveda (2130)

B.C. played better than the result indicates, but whatever breaks were available went in Washington's favour, resulting in the lopsided score. Thanks are due to organizers Duane Polich (Washington), Len Molden (B.C.), Nick Paleveda for the playing site, and Lynn Stringer.

Photos and games: <http://www.chess.bc.ca/bordermatch051.html>

Historic results: <http://www3.telus.net/public/swright2/bcwam.html>

Scholastic (Intermat)

B.C.'s honour was restored somewhat in the 15th annual scholastic match, which took place at BCIT in Burnaby a week later. Contested by two players from grades 1-12 on each side, the match was won decisively by the B.C. team with a 30.5-17.5 score, one of the largest winning margins in recent memory. Traditionally Washington has scored heavily in the lower grades in these matches, whereas B.C. tends to do better in the upper grades. The match is thus determined by which team can do better in their respective area of strength, or improve in their area of weakness.

This year the match was largely decided in the first round. The B.C. upper grades demonstrated their superiority by posting a 9-3 result, while the B.C. lower grades managed to hold their Washington counterparts to a 6-6 tie, thus giving B.C. an almost insurmountable 15-9 lead after the first game. In the afternoon the Washington upper grades staged a small comeback, losing by only 7-5, but on the lower boards the B.C. team had one of its best results ever, beating the visitors by an 8.5-3.5 margin. It should be noted that B.C. was a little lucky to achieve this result: in grades 4-6 the time control was only 60 minutes per player sudden death (it was 90 minutes for the upper grades), which meant a number of the games were marred by ferocious time scrambles. These games all went in B.C.'s favour, but the results could easily have been different. For future matches, I strongly recommend that grades 4-6 also have a 90-minute time control; the players are perfectly capable of thinking that long, and there is no reason they should be penalized in comparison with the upper grades.

In terms of individual results, B.C. players who won both their games were Arik Milner and Tanraj Sohal (both grade 4), Joshua Wild (6), Louie Jiang and Elliot Raymer (both grade 7), Richard Huang (8), Noam Davies (9), and Fanhao Meng (12); others with a plus score were Harrison Lee (2), Alex Sabaratnam and Donovan Zhao (both grade 3), Jack Cheng (5), and Tiffany Tang and Clyde Chen (both grade 10). On the Washington side, the bright spot was the performance of David Wyde, who won both his games for grade 11; in addition, Justin Yu and Kevin Ma (both grade 1) and Samuel Meisner (2) had plus scores. Future B.C. teams will miss the powerhouse combination of Fanhao Meng and Lucas Davies, who both "graduate" from this year's match. In the last five years they amassed between them the remarkable score of 18.5/20!

Detailed results: <http://www3.telus.net/public/swright2/bcwa2005.html>

Photos: http://www.bjdy.com/juniorchess/bc-wa2005_photo/index.html

Games: <http://www.chess.bc.ca/intm05.htm>

Many thanks to organizers Karen Dixon (Washington) and Katherine Davies (B.C.) (with the assistance of Bill Lee), and to all the players for participating. The TD was Stephen Wright. Washington now holds a slim 8-7 lead in the overall series, so next year the competition will be even keener than usual. However, B.C. supporters should note that so far neither team has managed to win three years in a row ...

Year	Location	Victor
1991	White Rock	BC
1992	Mountlake terrace	WA
1993	Burnaby	WA

1994 Mountlake Terrace BC
1995 Burnaby WA
1996 Shorewood WA
1997 Burnaby BC
1998 Shorewood BC
1999 Burnaby WA
2000 Seattle WA
2001 Burnaby BC
2002 Seattle WA
2003 Burnaby WA
2004 Seattle BC
2005 Burnaby BC

HAPPY SIXTIETH, DUNCAN! by Bruce Harper

[Many thanks to Bruce Harper for providing this appreciation on a milestone birthday - ed.]

The Age of Heroes in chess has passed, extinguished by the instantaneous spread of chess fashion via ChessBase and the internet, remorseless analysis by Fritz and other chess "engines," over-analysis of openings and the general homogenization of chess styles. "New" ideas, most of which are old, are (re-)discovered by teams of seconds armed with computers, rather than by players thinking at the board. And, with rare exceptions, most grandmasters play in the same active, positional, dynamic, technically proficient, omnivorous style, which synthesizes all that has gone before them.

It was not always so. In the 1950s and 1960s, Botvinnik played "correctly," Tal was winning with stunning combinations which people (not computers) refuted only days or weeks later, Petrosian's "anti-chess" drove people crazy, and no one knew what Fischer would do next, on or off the board. Canada was fortunate to have a local hero – Duncan Suttles, who turns a young sixty this month.

Suttles won the Canadian Championship in 1969, became a grandmaster in 1972 (Cold War politics denied him the title several years earlier) and represented Canada in the chess Olympiad many times. His chess style was distinctive and unique. Despite the inimitable and sometimes incomprehensible way Suttles played – or perhaps because of it – he inspired a host of followers and imitators, who tread in his footsteps with varying degrees of success.

It is impossible to overstate the impact that Duncan had on B.C., and later Canadian, chess. His critics have accused him of ruining Canadian chess for a generation (high praise indeed!), and I have been told that I would have become a GM had it not been for Suttles (I don't think I needed much help to avoid that fate, but thank you for saving me, Duncan – just in case!). Classical players detested his iconoclastic approach to the game, especially when they lost to him (which was often) or when they didn't understand it (which was almost always).

Suttles' most famous trademark is probably the defence which begins with 1...g6. No one who understands this opening calls it anything but the "Rat" – the appalling and misleading name "Modern Defence" was an English creation.

Suttles played many memorable games with the Rat, winning quite a few of them. While he was the first B.C. player to have played this opening, he has not been the last. Elod Macskasy, GM

Peter Biyiasas, Jonathan Berry and I all played it, as did Seattle super-GM Yasser Seirawan and various players I have worked with, including former Canadian Junior Champion Tyler Johnson and, more recently, Lesley and Andrea Cheng, Lara Heppenstall and my daughter Laura. Even if you forget how to play chess, you never forget how to play the Rat! Current B.C. Champion Jack Yoos has also been experimenting with the dark side.

My own experiences are interesting. When I was twelve I started playing in adult tournaments and learned about Duncan Suttles, then a rising chess star. I was so impressed that I started playing 1...g6, even though I had very little understanding of the ideas behind the opening. In my game scores, I initially described 1...g6 as the "Suttles Defence," or simply "Suttles." My results were not always good, although they probably were no better or worse than with other openings. Some of the games I lost were almost identical with later disasters which befell my students. But occasionally there was a game which more than made up for all the disasters:

Vogler,R - Harper,B [B06] Vancouver, 30.06.1968

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.f4 c5 4.d5 Nf6? 5.e5 Ng8 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bb5+ Kf8 I would consider this a 13-year old's interpretation of Suttles' ideas. **8.Nc3 a6 9.Bd3 Bg4 10.Qe2 b5 11.h3 Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nh6 13.Rg1 Ra7 14.e6 c4 15.Qe3 Rb7 16.Bf1 Nf5 17.Qe4 Qb6 18.Rg2 Bf6 19.Ne2 a5 20.c3 Na6 21.Kd1 Nc5 22.Qc2**



I still remember this as being one of the nicest positions I've ever had. **22...fxe6 23.dxe6 Nxe6 24.Qe4 Nc5 25.Be3 Nxe4 26.Bxb6 Nxc3+ 27.Nxc3 Rxb6 28.Nd5 Rc6 29.Re2 Ng3 30.Re1 Bxb2 31.Rb1 c3 32.Kc2 Nf5 33.Re4 b4 34.Rd1 Kf7 35.Ne3 Rhc8 36.Bc4+ Rxc4 37.Nxc4**



Rxc4 38.Rxc4 Ne3+ 0-1

For while there was something of a break, as I played less chess and even fewer Rats, describing the openings as "Yechh!!," "Sut," "S," and the more elaborate "Reti-Mutant."

On October 24th, 1970, I had a notable disaster against Peter Biyiasas, the opening (1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6) being described as "Thing," with a post-game note "(Never play again)." I held to this, playing various other openings, but this period of abstinence didn't last. On June 23rd, 1971, I fell off the wagon. I was clearly in denial, though, as I described the opening in the game as a "King's Indian Defence," although I later wrote "Rat" on the scoresheet, in a different pen, for the first time using the proper name for the opening.

The game was a keeper, and can be considered another milestone in my fall from chess grace:

Raymond,H - Harper,B [A42] Peace Arch op Bellingham (3), 23.01.1971

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nc6 5.Nge2 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.Be3 Nh6 8.f3 f5 9.b4 f4 10.Bf2 Nf7 11.Qb3 g5 12.c5 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Rc1 Bd7 15.a4 g4 16.Rc2 Ng5 17.Ng1 a6 18.a5 0-0 19.Bb6 Qe8 20.Bd3 Ng6 21.Bc7 Rf6 22.b5 Nh4 23.Kf2 Rc8 24.b6 Rg6



White has badly misplayed his attack on the queenside, while Black has a dream position on the kingside. **25.Qb2 Bf8 26.Na2 Ba4 27.Rc3 gxf3 28.g3 Qd7 29.Nxf3 Nh3+ 30.Ke2 Qg4 31.Rf1 Nxf3 32.Rxf3 Ng1+ 33.Kf2 Nxf3 34.Be2** Now Black has mate in four, which I saw. What stuck in my mind ever since was the strange way so many pieces, including White's c3-rook and b3-queen, are in just the right places to make the mate work. **34...fxg3+ 35.Ke3 Bh6+ 36.Kd3 Ne1+ 37.Kc4 Qxe4#**



This game foreshadowed what was to coming, but maybe I didn't want to press my luck, as there

followed few Rats, but many French Defences, Benko Gambits and other openings. But clearly my increasingly frequent blitz sessions with Duncan were having an effect, as February 21st, 1972, saw a Portland Attack (1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 2.d3 g6 4.g4!?) against Oszvald (a win), and on March 10th, 1972, another "Rat" against Hladek (also a win). By the time I got to the B.C. Championship in May 1972, it was all Rats and Pircs, with some success.

The rest, as they say, is history. By the mid-1970s, Duncan and I were playing four- or five-hour blitz sessions several times a week, and his "strange," "bizarre" and "weird" style seemed quite normal to me. Decades later, at the Western Canadian Open [2004], I played five Rats/Pircs/King's Indians with Black (scoring 4 out of 5), as opposed to five different first moves with White (scoring 3 out of 5). Even Duncan's (somewhat apocryphal) inability to win with White seems to have had some influence on my play...

Surprising as it may seem in today's world, where most aspiring young players have paid coaches and trainers, who follow a systematic and structure curriculum (the Soviet Union's greatest bequest to the world), neither I nor anyone else ever received a formal lesson from Duncan, nor was he ever paid for the knowledge he imparted to others. We just played chess. Even at the height of his fame, Duncan also played in local tournaments, when other top players would have refused to play or demanded impossible appearance fees (in 1973, Duncan won the Canadian and U.S. Opens, then finished the summer by playing in – and winning – the Victoria Labour Day tournament). More recently, Duncan continues to donate his time and energy to fund-raising events.

It hard to find anything other than nice things to say about Grandmaster Duncan Suttles, who has shown us all how to stay young.

But you might be wondering just what inspired us all to play 1...g6, refuse to develop our pieces when there were pawns to be moved, try to destroy enemy centres rather than create our own, and so on. In any good blitz session with Suttles, you were likely to see games like this:

Rivera,D - Suttles,D [A42] US op San Juan, 1965

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.d5 Nce7 7.f3 f5 8.c5 Nf6 9.Bb5+ Kf7 10.h3 f4 11.Bf2 g5 12.Nge2 h5 13.cxd6 cxd6 14.Qb3 g4 15.0-0-0 g3 16.Be1 Ng6 17.Ng1 Nh4 18.Bf1



Who's developed now? White's kingside pieces have returned to their original squares, and the

pressure on g2 is annoying, but how can Black break through on the kingside? He can't, but he can open a second front. **18...a6 19.Kb1 b5 20.Nge2 Nd7 21.Nc1 Nc5 22.Qc2 Bd7 23.b4 Na4 24.Nb3 Nxc3+ 25.Bxc3 Qb6 26.Na5 Rxc8 27.Qd2 Ra7 28.Bb2 Bf6 29.Rc1 Rxc1+ 30.Bxc1 Bd8 31.Kc2 Rc7+ 32.Kd1 Rc8 33.Nb3 Qa7 34.Bd3 Bb6** One of Suttles' greatest strengths was his uncanny ability to find the best squares for all his pieces. **35.Re1 Bf2 36.Bf1 Bxe1 37.Qxe1**



White has started to set up his pieces for the next game, but he's so rattled he has his king and queen backwards. **37...Qg1 38.Qe2 Bxh3 0-1**

Mihajlovic,M - Suttles,D [A42] US op Chicago (7), 19.08.1973

1.d4 g6 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 Nc6 5.Be3 e5 6.Nge2 Nh6 7.d5 Ne7 8.h3 f5 9.f3 f4 10.Bf2 0-0 11.Nc1 g5 12.Nd3 c5 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.Qd2 Be6 15.b3 Nf7 16.Rd1 h5 17.Be2 Qc8 18.Rc1 Ng6 19.Nb4 Rd8 20.Qc2 Qb7 21.a3 Bf8 22.Rb1 Kg7 23.c5 a5 24.Nba2 d5 25.Bd3 d4 26.Na4 Nh6 27.Nc1 Qf7 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4



With the centre settled, Black now begins a version of the "standard roll-up." **29...g4 30.hxg4 hxg4 31.Ke2 Be7 32.Nb6 Ra7 33.Nb3 g3 34.Be1 Nh4 35.Kf1 Rh8 36.Na5**



36...Ng4 37.fxg4 f3 38.Rxh4 Rxh4 39.Be2 fxe2+ Here White resigned. Black has a mate in four, in a spooky parallel to my game with Raymond: 40.Kxe2 Bxg4+ 41.Kd2 Bg5+ 42.Kd3 Qf1+, etc.



Who wouldn't want to play chess like this?
Happy Birthday, Duncan – and may you have many more!
Postscript: ICC is always a good way to relax after working hard writing a chess article.

Immediately after finishing this birthday tribute, I played the follow 3-minute game on ICC:

Guest5788 - Kingwalker, ICC 3 0 Internet Chess Club, 08.12.2005

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.a4 b4 7.Nd1 a5 8.c4 Nc6 9.Ne2 h6 10.Be3 e5 11.d5 Nce7 12.Rc1 f5 13.f3 Nf6 14.Qc2 f4 15.Bf2 g5 16.b3 h5 17.Nb2 Ng6 18.Nd3 g4 19.c5 Bd7 20.c6 Bc8 21.Nb2 Nh7 22.Nc4 Ng5 23.Ng1 Bf6 24.Be2 Kf7 25.fxg4 hxg4



26.Nd2 g3 27.hxg3 Rxh1 28.g4 Qh8 29.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 30.Bxf3 Qh2 31.Kd2 Bh4 0-1

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION MATCH OFFER

ICCF is glad to announce its end-of-year gift to everyone around the World: a free 2-game match on our dedicated ICCF WebChess server! The offer is open to anyone! Just fill a form with your personal information (name and surname, nationality, e-mail address), and we will pair you in a free 2-game match with someone else from around the World.

You can find the form on the ICCF WebChess server. Just go to <http://www.iccf-webchess.com/>. In the main page, you click on "New Events". Then click on "Enter" in the line with the offer to participate in a Friendly 2-game match. Fill with your personal information and click "OK" when you're done. There are no fees to be paid, it's free! The rhythm of play will be 10 moves in 40 days, and the games will be unrated, so your ELO (if you have one) will not change with the result. It is a unique opportunity to test our great ICCF WebChess server whilst playing two friendly games!

The deadline for entries is December 31, 2005. We will be starting matches throughout December and the last batch will be online in early January. Don't miss this great opportunity! 2 free games! On our ICCF WebChess server! Unrated! Send your entry NOW, don't wait until December 31!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Junior Events

Dec. 17 Skagit Chess Fest, Washington - <http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech/fest05.html>

Jan. 8 Junior Open, Vancouver Bridge Centre

Jan. 8 Island Junior Open, University of Victoria

Jan. 15 Shawnigan Lake Tournament

Jan. 22 Annual Junior Open, BCIT

Jan. 28 Elementary School Team Championship, St. John's School

Feb. 5 Island Junior Open, University of Victoria

Feb. 12 Junior Open, Vancouver Bridge Centre

Feb. 25 School Team Championship Finals, WPGA

See <http://www.chess.bc.ca/juniorevents.html>

For full details for the events below, see www.chess.bc.ca

BC Correspondence Chess Championship

Start date: January 1, 2006

Type: round robin

<http://www.chess.bc.ca/2006correspondencetourn.pdf>

January Sunday Open

Date: January 8, 2006

Place: Vancouver Bridge Centre

Type: 3-round Swiss

UBC Tuesday Night Swiss

Date: Tuesdays - next cycle begins January 10, 2006

Location: Room 213, Student Union Building, UBC

Format: 5-round Swiss

Time control: 2 hours sudden death

Time: 6:30 sharp

Entry fees: \$20 for adults, \$15 for juniors and UBC club members, \$12 under 1100 (excluding unrated)

TD info.: Aaron Cosenza, 604 327-4714, xramis1@yahoo.ca

Vancouver Class Championships

Dates: January 13-15, 2006

Place: Vancouver Bridge Centre

Type: 5-round Swiss

Dan MacAdam Memorial

Dates: January 21-22, 2006

Place: University of Victoria

Type: 5-round Swiss

Kelowna Winterfest

Dates: February 11-12, 2006

Place: Best Western Inn, Kelowna

Type: 5-round Swiss