

Canadian Chess News



Official newsletter of the Chess Federation of Canada

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Editor: Tony Ficzere

Publication is the 21st of each month.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Games are to be sent in pgn format.

Photos should be in jpeg format.

Articles should be in electronic format, however fax and mail articles are allowed.

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Inside this issue:

Featured Articles

- ♠ Premature Passing of a Weekend Warrior

FM Robert Hamilton

- ♠ Wild Ride: The King's Gambit in the 1960s

IM Lawrence Day

Other Articles

- ♠ FSMIA

Steven Bolduc

- ♠ 4th Edmonton International

Tony Ficzere

- ♠ The World Champions in Canada: Lasker (2) and Capablanca

Stephen Wright

Monthly Columns

- ♠ Chess Globe

- ♠ Across Canada

- ♠ Coming Events

- ♠ Rating Lists

From the Editor

I am once again late. I can't blame it on technical problems like I had with the last issue. This time it was because I underestimated the amount of work. Part of the problem is that I have not allowed myself enough time between the submission deadline and the date of publication. With only 3 days between them, chaos is a certainty. So, I must change my submission deadline to the 15th of each month and I will leave the publication date as it is on the 21st of each month.

I was planning on including a section for letters to the editor, but I only received one. I have received countless emails with compliments and criticisms but they have mostly been one-liners without much meat. The one email that I did get where the reader makes a valid criticism, I replied to by email. I will include it in the next issue if I get other letters.

Edmonton hosted their 4th Edmonton International in December. There wasn't a norm to be had. Still, it was an opportunity, and it bodes well for the organizers in Edmonton. This type of opportunity is rare in North America. Calgary will be hosting the Calgary International this May where both GM and IM norms will be attainable. The event will be semi-open; you will need a minimum rating of 2200 CFC and a FIDE rating to play. Alberta has been very fortunate to be able to host such events. All of the credit goes to people like Ford Wong, John Quiring and Len Steele to name just a few. They have built a solid foundation for chess in Alberta. If it can be done here, it can be done in other provinces. It does require a considerable commitment by a number of dedicated volunteers, but in my opinion, the end result is well worth the effort.

I have managed to line-up Jonathan Berry for the next issue. We haven't discussed what he will write about. I will leave that up to him. I can always use more articles from our members. Don't be shy! Your article will get the attention it deserves, and you will receive a modest fee for your services. What have you got to lose?

Tony Ficzere

Canadian Chess News**Ad Rates**

	1 issue	Additional Issues add
1 page	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00
1/2 page	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00
1/4 page	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00
1/8 page	\$ 75.00	\$ 37.50
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¼ page CFC rated events in Coming Events are free
CFC rated events receive a 50% discount

Additional issues must be consecutive

Rates are for camera ready copy

Add \$25 for layout

Ads must be submitted by the 15th of the month

The editor reserves the right to limit ads

Ads must be paid in advance

Contact Tony Ficzero at tficzero@telus.net

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Chess Game Symbols

!!	Excellent move	⊞	Centre
!?	Interesting move	✕	Weak point
?!	Dubious move	□	Only move
?	Mistake	└	with
??	Blunder	└	without
♔	King	♚	Queenside
♚	Queen	♗	Kingside
♞	Knight	♞	Endgame
♗	Bishop	♗	Pair of bishops
♖	Rook	♖	Bishops of opposite colour
♙	Pawn	♙	Bishops of same colour
→	Attack	≡	With compensation for material
f	Initiative	±	White has the upper hand
↔	Counterplay	±	White stands somewhat better
Δ	With the idea	∞	Unclear
○	Space	≡	Black stands somewhat better
⊕	Zeitnot (time trouble)	≡	Black has the upper hand
○	Development	⌒	Better is
↔	File (line)	½	Draw
↗	Diagonal	♙	Passed pawn
		⊙	Zugzwang

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The Chess Federation of Canada (CFC) is a charitable organization (10691 2058 RR) whose mandate is to promote and encourage the knowledge, study and play of the game of chess in Canada. The CFC organizes National Championships (Canadian Closed, Canadian Women's Closed, Canadian Junior and Canadian Youth Chess Championships), and provides funding for the winners to go on to the World Championships. In addition, the CFC has sent a team to the World Chess Olympiad each time it has been held (every second year) since 1964.

Annual Membership Rates

Province	Adult	Junior	Jr Part.
	\$	\$	\$
British Columbia	36	24	12
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Prince Edward Island	36	24	12
Newfoundland & Labrador	39	26	14
NWT, Yukon, Nunavut	36	24	12
USA	36	24	12
CFC – federal portion	36	24	12

*Family memberships are available for family members of adult members at 50% of adult rate for each family member.

*Effective May 1, 2009:

Single tournament memberships – Adult \$ 20, Junior \$ 10. Provincial portion of dues are \$ 4 and \$ 2 respectively.

Premature Passing of a Weekend Warrior

By Robert Hamilton

On November 21, Canadian chess lost one of its great weekend warriors with the premature death of 42 year old Michael Schleifer who died unexpectedly of a brain aneurism. For nearly three decades Michael was a regular participant in Québec and Ontario tournaments and he was close friends with many of Canada's top players.

I first met Michael in 1986 at his inaugural Canadian Closed in Winnipeg. We became friends during the post mortem of our first game and over the years he visited my home for multi-day stays at least twenty-five times. When Mike lived in Montréal and Québec City, I stayed with him many times, normally en-route to my native New Brunswick and sometimes during events. Mike worked for me at the World Chess Network for several years and more than once he travelled east to vacation at my cottage in New Brunswick.

Michael wasn't just my friend. He was a very close friend of my wife, Karen, and my son, Conrad. Conrad travelled to Toronto for a multi-day visit with Mike last summer and they were exchanging e-mails in the fall. His premature death is a sad blow for our entire family. I always thought Mike would live to a ripe old age.

Mike was a pensive, shy person. He was prone to insular moods where he preferred to be alone but could also be extremely engaging and colourful. He lived with a certain immunity to society's normal boundaries which made his views impractical, but very interesting.

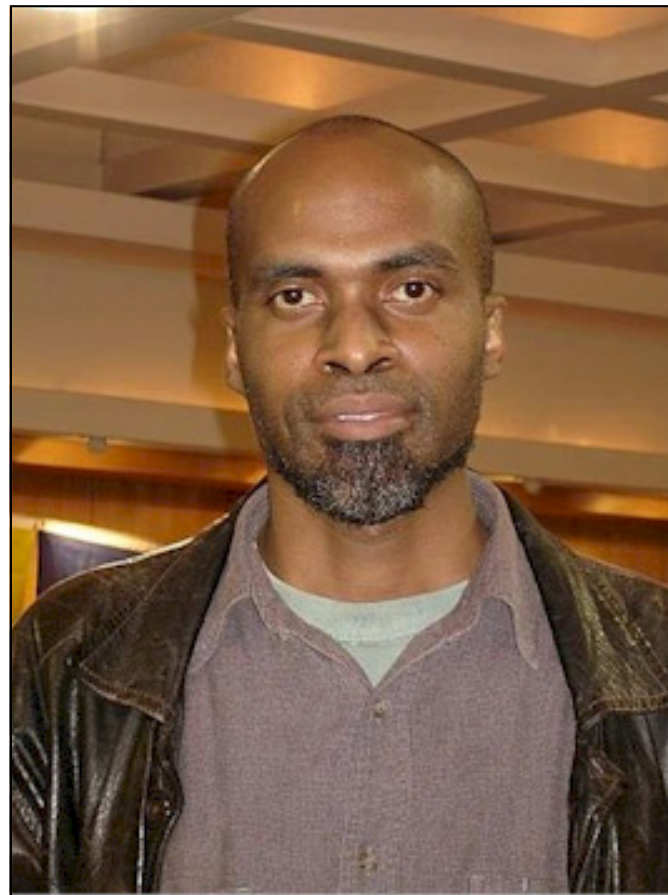
Aside from chess, his biggest interest was probably Psychology. He paid a great deal of attention to what people were like and what the wording of their last sentence they spoke to him implied about them.

Mike was an avid reader of various forms of literature and a wordsmith. He loved to try and capture circumstances in one word, or at most a couple. He encouraged others to engage in similar dialogue when with him as if it were a game where the cutest phrase earned the most points.

Outside of chess, Mike never found his footing professionally. There are so many things he could have done, but he wasn't hard driven and he did have some social phobias that made things more difficult.

Michael was intimate with a small circle of friends and family. Born in Canada, his mother was Jamaican and his dad part Jamaican and part German. His dad passed away early on, but his mother was warm and caring all his life. In retirement she returned to Jamaica, with an outstanding offer for Mike to join her.

Mark Dutton



Michael Schleifer at the 2006 Canadian Closed

His main family contacts in Toronto were his wonderful sister, Jackie, and her husband Paul. Mike stayed with them from time to time and maintained regular contact.

In chess, he was close with Vinny Puri and Bill Peckford early on. Lawrence Day and Bryon Nickoloff were good friends for whom he had considerable respect. He enjoyed hanging out with Brad Thomson of Ottawa and later, John Bleau of Québec City, Bill Evans of Toronto and Eddie Urquart of Oakville. Mike was also fond of contemporary IM Igor Zugic whom he called "adequately respectful."

And, of course, there was the ever-engaging Julie, the love of his life. I don't think Mike was ever happier in his life than during the five years he spent with Julie.

In chess, Mike grew up in the 1980s Toronto scene. With mavens Nickoloff and Day around, the city produced some very impressive juniors. Among them, archrivals were Alex Kuznecov, Todd Southam and Vinny Puri. Mike was tremendously talented but Vinny kept edging him out and won three straight Canadian Juniors.

Beyond the junior years, Michael continued to improve and rose above his junior rivals. He attained a peak rating of 2494, earned the IM title and won a long list of Canadian events.

Following is a list of his accomplishments in Canadian and International Chess events:

- ♣ 2007 Toronto Open Champion
- ♣ 2003 2nd, Québec Invitational (Québec Champion)
- ♣ 2002 1st, Eastern Ontario Open Championship
- ♣ 2001 1st, Eastern Ontario Open Championship
- ♣ 2001 2nd, Wilbert Paige Memorial, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- ♣ 2000 1st, Ottawa Open Championship
- ♣ 2000 1st, Toronto Open Championship
- ♣ 1999 Pan-Am Open Champion
- ♣ 1999 Awarded IM title for 2/3 score in 1999 Canadian Championship
- ♣ 1999 2nd, Canadian Championship; 6/9 (+5 =2 -2)
- ♣ 1999 1st, Toronto Open Championship
- ♣ 1997-8 1st, Eastern Ontario Chess Association Grand Prix
- ♣ 1998 Ottawa Open Champion
- ♣ 1997 Awarded FIDE Master title
- ♣ 1997 1st, Eastern Ontario Open Championship
- ♣ 1997 1st, Ottawa Open Championship
- ♣ 1997 Ontario Open Champion
- ♣ 1996 1st, Eastern Ontario Open Championship
- ♣ 1994 Canadian Active Champion
- ♣ 1994 1st, Ottawa Open [2] Championship
- ♣ 1994 1st, Ottawa Open [1] Championship
- ♣ 1993 Ottawa Open Champion
- ♣ 1993 Eastern Ontario Open Champion
- ♣ 1992 1st, Ontario Open Championship
- ♣ 1992 1st, Toronto Open Championship
- ♣ 1981-2 Ontario Under-16 Champion; 5/5

Julie Trottier



2000 Québec Ladies Champion Julie Trottier

If Michael had been properly trained and studied chess he could have become a Grandmaster. He had all the raw material – a great tactical eye – excellent time management – great nerves and a killer instinct. But he never seemed to care about theory and often placed himself at a disadvantage out of the gate.

In speed chess, Mike was even better. For years there was no speed tournament in Canada Mike couldn't win if he hit stride. We must have played thousands of speed games – I'm going to miss that guy.

Rather than present a vast number of different Michael games, I looked for one that best captured his fighting style. The following is such a game.

Played at the height of his powers, Michael battles Québec giant, Sylvain Barbeau. True to style, Michael dodges theory accepting an inferior opening. When Sylvain makes a questionable decision with 9.f4, the sparks begin to fly and a sustained tactical mess ensues.

Notes by Robert Hamilton

□ **Barbeau, Sylvain**

■ **Schleifer, Michael**

2001 Québec Open

Benoni Defence [A43]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 c5 3.d5 ♟f6 4.♟c3 d6 5.♟f3 e5?!

This is typical opening play of Mike. Black transposes to a Queen's Pawn opening down a tempo to avoid Barbeau's knowledge of e4 openings. This structure is more commonly arrived at via 1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5

6.♟d2!?

The Knight begins it's journey to the strong c4 square.

6...♟e7 7.a4 ♟bd7?!

Slightly unconventional. Black is trying to save a tempo by moving his Knight from d7–f8–g6 before castling so that he will not have to move his rook from f8 later to clear the path. The drawback is that White can use moves such as g3 and h4 to render the Knight vulnerable on g6.

8.♟c4 ♟f8 9.f4?!



Barbeau goes for broke but in so doing justifies Black's play. A natural and strong alternative was 9...♔c2 when after 9...♖g6 10.h4! is very strong since Black's Knight cannot go to f4 because of its capture followed by the strong ♖d2. After 10.h4, Black would be in danger of being caught in a bind.

9...exf4 10.e5 ♖g4 11.♔xf4?!

After this, Black seizes the initiative. White could level the position in the variations that follow after 11.♖d6 ♔d6 12.♔b5 which was probably the best objective decision.

11...♖g6

And, just like that, Mike arrives at the kind of messy position he thrives on.

12.e6!

Barbeau astutely recognizes that he doesn't have time for the luxurious ♔g3 when White's development is severely impaired due to many pawn advances and three tempi expended on the c4 Knight.

12...0-0!



I spend twenty five years trying to avoid positions like this against Mike! Michael thrives in complexity— he plays fast and does not wear down from too much analysis.

13.♔xd6

After 12.♖xg4 fxe6 Black regains the piece because of the double threats on d5 and f4. After either ♖xg4 or the game line, Black holds an edge. It's interesting to note that Michael's moves have all been natural and easy to choose whereas Barbeau has had to sift through a vast array of alternatives.

13...fxe6!?

Finally Black has to think. The alternative 13...♔d6 kept White fighting for equality as well.

14.♔g3?!

After 14.♔xc7 ♖xc7 15.♖xg4 exd5 16.♖e2, Black's edge is tiny.

14...exd5?!

Making it a little easier on White. Moving the dark Bishop

to f6, g5 or h4 kept the pressure on White in a very complicated position. Now White has full, but messy equality.

15.♖xd5+ ♖xd5 16.♖xd5 ♔g5 17.♖c7



Michael has correctly calculated that the Rook on b8 is not exposed to dangers from the g3 Bishop. The position is still very complicated.

17...♖b8 18.h3 ♖h6 19.♖d6 ♖f5

19...♖h8 is more precise.

20.♔c4+ ♖h8 21.♖xf5?

White could have gained a tempo and a small edge with 21.0-0 since Black's best move would have been ...♔d7 after which the f5 capture was possible anyway.

21...♔xf5 22.0-0! ♔xc2 23.♖e6 ♔e3+ 24.♖h2 ♖xf1

25.♖xf1 ♖e8 26.♖f7 ♖e7 27.♖f3 ♔d4 28.♔d6 ♖e8 29.♖g5?



A blunder after a long sequence of tactical play. After 29.♔c5 ♔c5 the position remains complicated but White should be able to hang on. Now Mike seizes his opportunity.

29...h6 30.♖f7+ ♖h7

Suddenly Black holds the extra pawn, a4 is weak and the Knight on f7 is not well placed.

31.b3 ♖e1!

White's King is very awkward now!

32.♖g3 ♔e4 33.♖f1 ♖e3+ 34.♖h2 ♔d3! 35.♖f3 ♔xc4

36.♖xe3



After 36.bxc4 ♖e2! White would be down a pawn with a weak King and queenside. Now, with the two minors for a Rook, it's easy.

36...♙xf7 37.♖f3 ♙d5 38.♖d3 ♙e4 39.♖d2 ♜h4 40.♖e2 ♙c6 41.♖e7? ♜f5 0-1.

Memories of Michael

Vinny Puri

Michael Schleifer's death has been a glum reminder for me of just how far removed those carefree teenage years of playing blitz chess and ping pong seem from today. The memories are still fresh.

Mike and I shared many weekend afternoons and evenings keeping ourselves out of trouble by competing, whether it was poker, chess or table tennis. He was a very confident guy who did not like to lose at anything. Over the years, we played countless number of blitz games and several tournament games together. There was never a dull moment and it was always enjoyable whether I won or not. I credit Mike with a lot of my own success because rivals like him and Todd Southam forced me to improve or be left behind. Quite often in life, it's your competition that determines the limits to your success and skill.

Our intense battles culminated in a very tense game that we played with the stakes being very high. During the 1986 Canadian Junior in Toronto, Mike and I took our games to another level against some very good competition. His score of 9/11 would have handily won the tournament in almost any other year. I played probably the best tournament of my life and scored 10/11 to win first place. My win over Mike that year was a crazy battle that ultimately would decide the tournament winner and the right to represent Canada at the world juniors in Gausdal, Norway. That game and the tournament could have gone either way. There are many memories I have of Mike, his mannerisms and expressions. He was a very unique individual who certainly left an impression on people during his teenage

years. If his talent could have been nurtured a bit better, there's no telling how far he could have gone in chess and in life. He will be notably missed on the Canadian chess scene.

Vinny Puri is a three time Canadian Junior Champion having won the crown 1985, 1986 and 1987. In the 1987 at the World Junior Championship in the Philippines turned in a spectacular result, tying for 6th. Vinny currently works in Brampton as a medical doctor who is a specialist in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology.

Billy Peckford

I first met Michael at the Canadian Junior Championship in Winnipeg, 1984. Michael would have won that tournament most years as he was far superior to everyone in the field, with the exception of Vinny Puri. I remember at the time thinking that everyone except Vinny lost the tournament but for those of us who never stood a chance it was no big deal. For Michael it must have been very tough. Interestingly I never heard Michael complain about losing that tournament and throughout his life I never heard him complain about losing games, bad luck or virtually anything else. I wonder if his life would have been different had we won that tournament, but maybe that is silly.

The following summer I visited Toronto and gave Michael a call. We became fast friends and hung out a great deal over the next several years. My main memories are of playing speed chess with Michael on Gould Street (the chess corner) at all hours of the evening. Michael was a prolific speed chess player and would routinely give opposing players 5-1 time odds and still come out on top, much to the pleasure of a large crowd of onlookers. Michael and I also discovered a mutual fondness for the game of poker and regularly played a fairly big money game given that we were kids with no money. Our staple game of poker was called 65 and featured many more complications than today's popular Texas Hold'em game. As with chess, Michael excelled in complications and was able to play well even while playing extremely quickly. Given the surging popularity and money in poker today it seems we were ahead of our time.

I don't remember the exact chronology but I invited Michael to visit Nova Scotia and much to my surprise he took the very long bus ride from Toronto to Halifax. The fact that Michael made that trip meant he was a true friend and not just someone who would hang out with me in Toronto when I was in town. Once again we played endless games of speed chess, I introduced him to that mecca of chess known as the Bluenose chess club, he made new friends (Gord Mazur), we found new poker players to relieve of their money and generally enjoyed the lively Halifax bar scene.

Michael probably seemed aloof or unapproachable to

many. In his early years he even seemed to purposely put up a standoffish front. In a display of eccentricity, Michael spent an entire summer in his late teens walking around Toronto wearing no shoes. Despite the initial impressions he may have made, Michael attracted many friends who came to know his wit (always able to sum up a situation in a few words), his imagination (regularly displayed on a chessboard) and his loyalty as a friend. Michael did have a stubborn streak in him and I recall many times when we would have a standoff over some minor issue, though these standoffs never impacted our friendship. Michael and I played literally thousands of games of speed chess which given his superiority also amounted to hundreds of hours of lessons for me. While I was always a sound positional player, playing Michael inspired me to try to add more imagination into my game.

When a person becomes a strong chess player, there is often a debate about whether the person has “talent for the game” or simply acquired their skill through hard work. Michael had talent. While I am sure Michael also worked hard on his game, one area where Michael showed little interest, especially in his younger years, was the study of opening theory. It seems today that many young players are able to reach great heights in the game through extensive study and memorization of opening theory. Given the decades of modern chess experience, and the advent of extraordinarily strong chess computers, today opening theory can extend well into the middle game and even into the endgame. This aspect of chess certainly rewards hard work but as I often found in my encounters with Michael hard work only takes you so far.

I played Michael perhaps a dozen times in tournament play and through my own opening preparation I routinely obtained large advantages out of the openings. Unfortunately Michael would typically stray far enough from known theory that I would soon find myself on my own, and then the trouble would start. As we emerged from the openings, my heart would beat fast with anticipation of my impending victory over Michael. This would be a great accomplishment because Michael was always the better player. Unfortunately, as the middlegame proceeded, my advantage typically slipped away as Michael out-maneuvered me from his inferior opening position. As the games wore on, my heart would beat fast with fear of losing instead of anticipation of winning. Most of all I was always amazed and deeply discouraged at Michael’s talent for turning the tables on me.

I have been out of the tournament chess scene for most of the last decade but I am hoping to return to chess in my older years and renew old friendships. I pictured Michael, and I playing games against young opponents who are armed with vast amounts of modern opening theory. Michael would quickly find himself in an inferior position. His opponent would look on in delight at his opening advantage and his heart would beat fast with the anticipation of victory. But Michael and I would glance at each other knowingly. Michael now had his opponent right where he

wanted him. Alas, if and when I return to the chess circuit my old friend will not be there. He will be missed.

Bill Peckford grew up in Nova Scotia and became the strongest Nova Scotia player ever. At the end of the 1980s, Bill relocated to Toronto where he turned in his best results which included regularly defeating many of Canada’s top players. Bill is currently fund manager of a very large and successful investment fund in Toronto.

John Bleau

I met Michael as one of his opponents at a simultaneous exhibition. I had stopped playing chess when Michael moved to Québec City, though I continued to follow it on the web. We hit it off immediately. I appreciated his low-key humour, his absolute lack of meanness, and his loyalty. Where some friends indulge in a bit of schadenfreude at our expense, his support was total and genuine. This, rather than any particular instruction he gave me, was responsible for the best chess performance in my life.

Michael wanted to play in a Toronto tournament and asked me to go along. I had not played in some six years but “what the hell,” I thought, “let’s go.” His presence imbued me with a touch of hubris that was sensed by the organizer who put me into a stronger section! Though I was one of the lowest-rated in the 1800-2000s, I ploughed through it and reached the final round half a point behind my opponent’s perfect score. The game was very complicated and tense. Michael took a stroll from his top section game and stood behind me, looking at my board, unaware that I could see him in a mirror. His face was serious as he was taking in my position, then the slightest of grins appeared... and all was well in our little Chess.

John Bleau is a long time chess aficionado from Québec City. Never one to shy away from adventure, John spent nearly a year in India and later wrote a book about it. Later he spent nearly as long sailing in the Atlantic. Recently, Michael spent some time living with John in Québec City where John runs a translation business.

Lawrence Day

I first got to know Mike during week-long seminars that the OCA organized circa 1982. Held at the Toronto Chess Club, it was patterned after Keres 1975 visit with the method of a classical time-control clock simul followed by in-depth analysis of the games. Mike was shy and didn’t speak much except about variations, but his potential seemed among the most promising (his junior rivals included Deen Hergott, Alex Kuznecov and Todd Southam). Then I watched Mike’s progress up the Toronto Chess Club speed rating list. Each week’s performance seemed better

than the last. He had very steady nerves and didn't get psyched.

We played for the first time in the 1983 Toronto Closed where my Benko Gambit produced a tactical trick. But he continued to improve and by 1990 at the Labour Day Open he held a 'must-draw' situation, defanging my King's Gambit.

□ **Day, Lawrence (2367)**

■ **Schleifer, Michael (2369)**

Labour Day Open Toronto, 1990

King's Gambit [C36]

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 exf4 4.♟f3 ♟f6 5.♟b5+ ♟d7 6.♟c4 ♟e7 7.0-0 ♟g4 8.♟c3 0-0 9.d4 c6 10.dxc6 ♟xc6 11.♟e2 ♟c8 12.♟b3 ♟h5 13.c3 ♟d6 14.♟d3 g6 15.♟d5 ♟b8 16.♟e4 ♟e8 17.h3 ♟xe4 18.hxg4 ♟xe2 19.♟xe2 ♟g3 20.♟b5 ♟xf1 21.♟xf1 ♟d7 22.♟g5 ♟d8 23.a4 ♟e6 24.♟b5 ♟e7 25.♟d2 a6 26.♟b3 ♟d7 27.♟e1 ♟g7 28.c4 h5 29.gxh5 ♟xh5 30.c5 ♟g3+ 31.♟g1 ♟f5 32.♟c4 ♟f8 33.b4 ♟d8 34.♟c3 ♟e3 35.♟a2 ♟d5 36.♟d2 ♟g7 37.♟b3 f6 38.b5 g5 39.♟d3 ♟h8 40.c6 bxc6 41.bxc6 ♟xc6 42.♟f5 ♟e3 43.♟xe3 fxe3 44.♟xe3 ♟e8 45.♟b3 ♟f4 46.♟f2 ♟e4 47.♟c3 ♟xc3 48.♟xe4 ♟b2+ 49.♟e2 ♟g3+ 50.♟e3 ♟b3+ 51.♟d2 ♟f4+ 52.♟e1 ♟xa4 53.♟e7+ ♟g6 54.♟e4+ ♟f7 55.♟h7+ ♟e6 56.♟g8+ ♟d6 57.♟f8+ ♟e6 58.♟g8+ ♟e7 59.♟g7+ ♟e6 60.♟g8+ ½-½.

In 1992, he won our up-and-down, last-round game from the Toronto Open. At the 1996 Canadian Closed, he was winning a ♟♟+♟+4 vs ♟♟+♟+4 with a choice of good moves but fell for a tactical trick, the old 'dizziness-due-to-success'

problem. Our last slow game I remember was played at the Concordia Club in Kitchener during the 1996 Ontario Open.

Having already been knocked out of the fight for first (by Eduardo Teodoro IV) we had commiserated with, staying up all night at Robert Hamilton's place, babbling, analyzing and waxing nostalgic. Sleepily we arrived next morning to find we were paired with each other. Like in many games in speed and active tournaments we debated this variation of the Old Indian.

□ **Schleifer, Michael**

■ **Day, Lawrence**

Ontario Open, 1996

Old Indian Defence [A53]

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 d6 3.♟c3 ♟f5 4.♟g5 ♟bd7 5.f3 h6 6.♟h4 ♟h7 7.e4 e5 8.d5 ♟e7 9.♟f2 c5 10.♟d3 ♟h5 11.g3 g6 12.♟c2 0-0 with a draw agreed to catch some sleep. A genuine nice guy, calm when others were storming, thoughtful, tranquil...I have pleasant memories of Mike.

Lawrence Day is one of Canada's legendary players and was the recognized guru of Toronto chess throughout Mi-

chael's formative years as a player. Michael was one of many fortunate Toronto juniors who benefited from having Lawrence in the same city.

Eddie Urquhart

It was with the deepest sadness that I heard of Michael's passing in December 2009. Michael was like a big brother to me and would always look out for my well being. He thought more about his friends and family than he did about himself.

I met Michael during the 2001 Canadian Closed Championship in Montréal. This was my first Canadian Closed and I was a little nervous about coming to Montréal for the first time. As a young man from Nova Scotia, I didn't know anyone outside the province and the worst part was that I didn't speak a word of French!

Michael and I were introduced when we met in Round 2. After being convincingly out-played, the humble IM showed me where I went wrong and apologized for his win! To make me feel better, he invited me to his home in Montréal where I was instantly taken in by the brotherhood of chess players. Michael's place was a regular hangout for several of Canada's top chess players during big tournaments. We would often play speed chess and poker until all hours of the evening and talk about life in general. Michael was a philosopher at heart and had many creative and colorful ideas on life in general. It was then that Michael and I became close and we had been friends ever since.

I think many chess players misunderstood Michael to be stuck up or self centered. In fact, he was exactly the opposite when you got to know him. In my opinion, he was one of the most loyal, kind and trustworthy individuals that I have ever met.

My fondest memories of Michael were his laughter and good humor! There were times when we would laugh at something silly which would turn into an all out tear fest. Michael always knew how to enjoy life and he loved his friends and family dearly.

As a chess player, Michael had an amazing talent for finding deep and hidden resources in any given position. I always enjoyed his post mortems when he would show some of the creative possibilities that didn't get played. I think he would have become a GM if he had lived outside of Canada and had the proper incentives in place.

It seems unfair to me that Michael was taken from us at such an early age. I will always remember him and miss him dearly. Rest in peace my friend.

Eddie Urquhart grew up in rural Nova Scotia. He attended university in Halifax where he became the dominant player. After graduation, he relocated to Ontario and soon joined the ranks of Canada's top players. Eddie currently resides in Mississauga and works as a Financial Planner with the Royal Bank.

Wild Ride: The King's Gambit in the 1960s

By Lawrence Day



Prelude

A tournament at Mar del Plata, held in March of 1960, provided the first chapter of one of the great rivalries of chess history. Bobby Fischer, 17, of the United States shared first with Boris Spassky, 23, of the Soviet Union. At 13.5/15 they finished the event in a class by themselves, two points ahead of established wizard David Bronstein. Their much-anticipated second-round game was their first of many intense encounters.

Knowing what we now know of how history would unfold, it is perhaps difficult to appreciate that in 1960 both future champions were feeling somewhat washed up. Fischer had won three U.S. Championships, but in what he really cared about, the world title quest, he had done no better in his 1959 Candidates attempt than the teenage Spassky in the previous 1956 cycle. These prodigies needed seasoning, and they knew it. As well as veterans Mikhail Botvinnik, Vasily Smyslov and Paul Keres, their contemporary Mikhail Tal was ahead of them, and their own talents were apparently matched by Efim Geller, Tigran Petrosian and Viktor Korchnoi.

Spassky had missed the 1958 Interzonal after losing to Tal in the critical game of the Soviet Zonal. We know now that Spassky evolved his style into the 'universal' player, adapting easily to any type of position. One category missing, that he set about mastering in the late 1950s, was the hyper-complicated, head-spinning tactical melees in which Tal excelled. These were irrational positions, often with odd material imbalances, unclear positions that provided choices of unclear future positions.

Tal, as if by some magical hypnosis or good bluffing, seemed to have many of his opponents assuming that he was seeing some trick down the line that they were missing. He did have fantastic vision, fast and deep, but also he played some mind-benders that were only refuted by much later analysis.

Intuition and practicality were required for this style. Some players simply avoid irrational positions; they like to have everything under control, risk set for minimal and no strain on the nerves. But near the summit, how could such a limitation allow one to become world champion?

No, to attain 'universal' style, Spassky needed experience in the wild chess.

Bobby Fischer closely studied the Soviet literature and

would have noticed the game J. Muratov - Boris Spassky Tallinn 1959 with the not-quite-dead Latvian Counter-Gambit. It is an obscure line of ill repute, but one which had stung Bobby at his U.S. Junior in 1955.

□ Muratov, J

■ Spassky, Boris
Tallinn, 1959

Latvian Gambit [C40]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 f5

As played in Riga.

3.♘xe5 ♗f6 4.d4

Smyslov's 4.♘c4 fxe4 5.♘c3 ♗g6 6.d3 looks more promising to me.

4...d6 5.♘c4 fxe4 6.♘c3 ♗g6



7.♗e2!?

Old theory had 7.d5, retaining the ♘f4 option, from Spielmann-Nimzovich, Semmering, 1926. Fischer at 13, playing against Viktors Pupols, experienced queenside cluttered after 7.♘c3 ♘f6 8.♘c4 c6 9.d5 ♘c7 10.a4 ♘bd7 11.a5 ♘c5 12.♘e2 0-0 13.0-0 ♘d7 14.♔h1 ♔h8 15.♘c4 ♘fg4 with Black having everything he could hope for from the Latvian...0-1, 44.

7...♘f6 8.f3 ♘c6 9.♘e3 ♘e7 10.0-0 0-0 11.d5 ♘b4 12.a3



12...a5!?

The positional Knight Gambit is very much in the style of Tal. Can it be sound? Note that if it isn't accepted, then Black may be threatening ...b7-b5 as the ♖/c3 is overloaded guarding d5.

13.axb4

Taking the horse is Trojan spirit, but otherwise its pressure on d5 and c2 is annoying.

13...axb4 14.♖b1 ♖a1 15.♖cd2 exf3 16.gxf3 ♖xd5**17.♖e4**

The test is 17.♖b3 ♖xe3 18.♖xa1 ♖g5! when Black is down a Rook but has a hyperactive army. 19.h4 ♖h6 20.♖d2



Best play seems the repetition after 20...♖f5! 21.♖b5 ♖a8 22.♖ab3 ♖d7 23.♖d3 ♖f5 with a pendulum. Playing for more than a draw is possible but very risky. Too ambitious is 23...♖f6? 24.♖e1 ♖a2 25.♖xe3 ♖xb2+ 26.♖d1 ♖xe3 27.♖xe3 ♖xc2+ 28.♖e1 winning for White. So the try is 20...♖xd1 21.♖xd1 ♖e6 22.♖b1 when a sample of how play might proceed would be 22...♖xd2 23.♖xd2 ♖a8 24.♖xb4 ♖a2+ 25.♖c1 ♖h6+ 26.♖d2 ♖d5 27.♖b3 ♖h5 28.♖g5 ♖xf3 29.♖g1 ♖f7 30.♖d4 h6 31.♖f5 ♖a1+ 32.♖d2 ♖xf3 33.♖xf5 ♖f8 34.♖e3 with White finally on top. In any case the perpetual boot draw is sufficient to judge Spassky's sacrifice sound.

17...♖xe3 18.♖xe3 ♖e6 19.♖g1 ♖f7 20.♖ed2

Alternatives:

20.♖d3 ♖a2 21.♖ed2 g6 22.♖g4 ♖f6 23.♖xb4 ♖e5 24.♖a7 ♖xh2 25.♖xb7 ♖f4 26.c3 ♖xb1 27.♖xa1 ♖xd3 28.♖a7 ♖xd2+! 29.♖xd2 ♖xf3 30.♖b8 ♖f1+ 31.♖d1 ♖f4+ 32.♖d2 with repetition;

20.♖g2 ♖fa8 21.f4 ♖a2 22.♖d2 is another weird balance.

20...♖f6 21.♖d3 ♖a2 22.♖de1

Shedding a pawn.

22...♖xb2+ 23.♖d1 ♖d5 24.♖g5 ♖e5 25.♖eg1 ♖a1**26.♖xe5?**

Eliminating the well-centralized B-pair is sensible but the economical method was 26.♖f5! ♖f6 27.♖xd5 ♖xb1+ 28.♖xb1 ♖xd5 29.♖d2 with a game.

26...dxe5 27.♖xe5 ♖a5 28.♖c1 b6 29.♖d4 ♖e7 30.♖g4 ♖h8 31.h4 ♖e8 32.♖e4 b3

Now it is clearly winning.

33.cxb3 ♖xe4 34.♖xe4 ♖c5+ 35.♖c2 ♖e3+ 36.♖b2 ♖e5+ 37.♖c1 ♖a2 38.♖e4 ♖b2+ 39.♖d1 ♖d8+

White resigned.

A simple logic suggests that if the Latvian is playable then so too must be the venerable King's Gambit. Spassky started with the wildest option:

□ **Spassky, Boris**

■ **Furman, Semyon**

Tallinn, 1959

King's Gambit [C33]

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♖c3!?

Is this sound? Spassky had developed a famously unreadable poker face. Surely if it weren't sound he wouldn't have risked it? Furman, who was a trainer of junior stars, might have sought some clue in Boris' expression. But no. He had the same calm expression whether initiating some ten move combination or blundering a piece. Playing him in 1971 I noticed how unnaturally still he was, and that he

moved his pieces with an uncanny accuracy such that they seemed to arrive exactly dead centre in the squares. None toppled, wobbled nor needed adjusting. Spassky's zenny calm was so serene it was spooky.

3...♖h4+ 4.♔e2 d5 5.♜xd5 ♜d6

Primarily this development guards c7. Sacrificially sharp—est is 5...♜g4+ 6.♜f3 ♜c6!? allowing 7.♜xc7+ ♜d8 8.♜xa8 ♜e5 when 9.h3 ♜xf3+ 10.gxf3 ♖g3 11.d4 ♖xf3+ 12.♔e1 ends in perpetual check, but in this case White can try for more with 9.♖c1 ♜xf3 10.♖xh4+ ♜xh4+ 11.♔e1! with some endgame chances.

6.d4 ♜g4+ 7.♜f3 ♜c6 8.e5 0-0-0 9.♜xf4 ♜ge7

Perhaps 9...Bb4 is a move.

10.c4



A fine chaos. In those days, the normal time limit was 40 moves in 150 minutes. Even at that leisurely pace Black has to calculate very deeply to thread his way through this maze of complex alternatives. Furman went instantly wrong.

10...♜f5?

After 10...♜b4 11.a3 ♜xd5 12.cxd5 ♜xd5 13.♔c3 ♜e7 14.♜xh4 ♜xd1 15.♜xd1 ♜xh4 16.g3 ♜e7 17.♜g2 ♜dd8 18.d5 ♜a5 19.♔d4 White will have all the fun. Possible is 10...♜he8!? with the point that 11.g3 ♖h5 12.♜g2 f6 gives counter-play. But 11.♜g3 ♖h6 12.♔f2 ♜b4 13.♜f4 ♖h5 14.♜xb4 ♜xb4 15.♜e2 ♜xf3 16.♜xf3 ♖g6! and Black is holding on since 17.♖b3 can be met by ...♖c2+ to exchange Queens.

11.exd6 ♜fxd4+ 12.♔d3! ♖h5 13.♜e2 ♜e6 14.♜g3 cxd6

Now, with care, White is winning.

15.b4 ♜he8 16.♜e1 ♜c7 17.♔c3 ♖h6 18.♖c1 ♜xd5+ 19.cxd5 ♜e3+ 20.♜d3 ♖f6+ 21.♔c2 ♜xe1 22.♜xe1 ♜xf3 23.dxc6 ♜xc6 24.♜c3 ♖f2+ 25.♖d2 ♜a4+ 26.♔b2 ♖h4 27.♜xg7 ♜b8 28.g3 ♖g4 29.♜f6 ♜c8 30.♜c1 ♜e8 31.b5

Black resigned 1-0.

Spassky was learning that his remaining calm amidst the chaos seemed to induce his opponents to blunder. Probably Fischer had looked at this game in his preparations. But playing an ancient wild variation as a surprise is a quite different tactic from repeating the same variation against someone alerted beforehand.

Main Event

□ Spassky, Boris

■ Fischer, Bobby

Mar del Plata, 1960

King's Gambit [C39]

1.e4 e5

In his lifetime record, Fischer played Black in this position

Chess & Art

Man Ray

(1890-1976)

Emmanuel Radnitzky was an American conceptual artist who carried a life long passion for chess. Man Ray was well known for his contributions to the Dada and Surrealist movements in art. He considered himself a painter first, even though he is most recognized for his photography. Man Ray was truly an artist of all mediums.



Man Ray Chess Set (1946)

seven times making a 4–3 plus. Aside from this game he drew 4 Classical (3...♔c5) Ruy Lopez, won once against Bill Addison with the rare Chase Variation (3...a6 4.♔a4 b5) and once against Edmar Mednis' Italian Game.

2.f4 exf4 3.♔f3 g5

Returning to the 19th century's main line, Bobby wants to hold the pawn. 3...d5 had been the popular modern solution to the KGA until the 1960s.

4.h4

Kieseritsky's Gambit is more positional than the attacking 4.♔c4. The idea is that first White makes sure that Black's pawn chain will have holes. If he delays h2–h4 then ...h7–h6 and ...♔g7 will support the chain; the timing is critical.

4...g4 5.♔e5 ♔f6

5...d6 6.♔xg4 ♔f6 is a modern treatment.

6.d4

This positional continuation of Philidor, punctuated with an exclamation by Rubinstein, avoids the sharper 6.♔c4 d5 7.exd5 when Black can choose between:

A) 7...♔d6 8.d4 ♔h5 9.♔c3 when Black should probably follow Anderssen's understanding with 9...0-0!? since the supposed improvement 9...♔e7?! 10.0-0 ♔xe5 runs into the surprising 11.♔b5! to guard d4 and make ♔e1 a powerful threat, e.g. 11...0-0 12.dxe5 a6 13.♔d4! found in 2004 in Australia by David Flude, or 11...a6 12.♔e1 ♔d7 13.d6! cxd6 14.dxe5 0-0 15.♔xd6 with advantage (analysis by IM Stefan Buckner).

B) the less analysed 7...♔g7!? which Paul Keres had used against a young Robert Byrne in the USA–USSR match at Moscow in 1955. Likely both Spassky and Fischer knew that game well. It went: 8.d4 ♔h5 9.0-0 ♔xh4 10.♔e1 ♔xe1 11.♔xe1 0-0 12.♔c3 ♔d7 13.♔b5 c6 14.♔c7 cxd5 15.♔xa8 dxc4 16.♔d2 ♔xe5 17.dxe5 ♔f5 18.♔c7 ♔xc2 19.♔ac1 ♔d3 20.♔d5 b5 ...0-1, 63.

A rarer option is famous from a casual game Morphy–Anderssen, Paris, 1858, which explored the direct 6.♔xg4 ♔xe4 7.d3 ♔g3 8.♔xf4 ♔xh1 (8...♔e7+!?) 9.♔e2+ ♔e7 10.♔f6+ ♔d8 11.♔xc7+ ♔xc7 12.♔d5+ ♔d8 13.♔xc7 ♔xc7



Bizarrely, in "My 60 Memorable Games" (1969) Fischer wrongly gave this position as winning for Black. Actually, after the correct 14.♔f3! ♔xh4+ 15.g3!? (Bucker) or 15.♔d2 ♔g3 16.♔a3 f6 17.♔c4 recommended in the bootlegged "My 61 Memorable Games" (2008), the play is balanced.

Morphy–Anderssen continued: 14.♔g4? d6 15.♔f4 ♔g8 16.♔xf7 ♔xh4+ 17.♔d2 ♔e8 18.♔a3 ♔a6 (Also 18..Ng3 is a slight disadvantage) 19.♔h5 ♔f6 20.♔xh1 ♔xb2?? (A blunder decides. Necessary was 20..Bg5+! with a game) 21.♔h4+ ♔d7 22.♔b1 ♔xa3 23.♔a4+ 1-0.

6...d6 7.♔d3 ♔xe4 8.♔xf4!?

Richard Reti wrote about this position: "Black is a pawn ahead, but his position is far from enviable because of the irreparable weakness of the now open f–file." Much less risky is Philidor's main line: 8.♔e2 ♔e7 9.♔xf4 ♔g7 10.c3 where Philidor's analysis went 10...h5 11.g3 d5 12.♔g2 f5 13.♔d2 ♔c6 14.0-0 ♔c6 15.♔h2 0-0-0. Rubinstein later found an improvement, 14 ♔c5! and an edge. But perhaps Black can also improve with 10...♔c6 11.♔d2 f5! giving some purpose to the otherwise useless backward f–pawn. This line was deeply analyzed and recommended by Bucker on *Chessscafe.com* in 2008. The German theoretician considers White should play *ye olde* 6.♔c4 instead.

8...♔g7 9.♔c3!?

Preparation or improvisation? The face doesn't tell. Fischer later punctuated 9.♔c3? recommending 9.c3 ♔e7 transposing back to Philidor. However this would be a dangerous course for White as Black can avoid the Queen exchange by 9...0-0! 10.♔d2 ♔e8 11.♔xe4 (11.♔e2 ♔c6 12.♔xe4 ♔xe4 only transposes) 11...♔xe4+ which favours Black.

To go postal, an example of the drawish tendencies of Philidor's theoretical endgame is this well played stand-off between CGMs Jonathan Berry and Danish ace Erik Bang in 1981: 9.c3 ♔e7 10.♔e2 ♔f5 11.♔d2 ♔xd2 12.♔xe7+ ♔xc7 13.♔xd2 ♔d7 14.♔e1+ ♔f8 15.g3 ♔b6 16.♔c2 ♔d5 17.♔d2 ♔f6 18.♔g2 ♔e8 19.♔xb7 ♔e4 20.♔c6 ♔e7 21.♔xe4 ♔xe4 22.♔hf1 ♔e8 23.♔e3 ♔d7 24.♔d2 ♔b8 25.b3 ♔be8 26.♔f4 ♔f3 27.♔h5 ♔h8 28.♔f4 ♔g7 29.♔h5 1/2-1/2.

9...♔xc3 10.bxc3 c5!?

Very concrete; he wants an extra pawn.

11.♔e2 cxd4 12.0-0 ♔c6 13.♔xg4 0-0 14.♔xc8 ♔xc8 15.♔g4 f5 16.♔g3 dxc3 17.♔ae1

Forget the pawns, Spassky completes his development.

17...♔h8 18.♔h1 ♔g8 19.♔xd6

(see next diagram)

A critical moment.

19...♔f8?!

This was a really difficult choice. With 19...♔f8, Fischer



aimed to simplify the position and reduce the tension, but in so doing perhaps he lost much of his advantage. Suppose he had instead put his faith in centralization with 19...♔d4!? At first this looks great as after 20.♖h2 ♖g4 21.♔e5+ ♔g8 22.♔g3 the judgment "and holds" given in M60MG was wrong stuff, a premature pessimism. M61MG corrects that error by looking one move deeper. After the further centralization 22...♗d5! Black would dominate the board. On 23.a3, 23...♔h8 renews the g-file threats. However it is not so easy if White answers 19...♔d4 with 20.♔e5!? ♗f6 21.♖h2 complicating matters. Fischer did not consider this possibility but Spassky probably did. Reducing to a double Rook endgame after 21...♔xe5 looks quickly drawish but instead Black has 21...♗ce8! 22.♔xc6 bxc6 23.a3 c5 and if 24.♔f4 ♗a6 which looks very good for Black.

20.♔e5+ ♔xe5 21.♖xe5+ ♖g7 22.♖xf5 ♗xh4+ 23.♔g1 ♗g4?

23...♗g3!! forces off the queens, a good trade for Black since White's is powerfully centralized. White cannot avoid the exchange since 24.♗e2? ♔d6 is strong. However in the resulting endgame, White still has many drawing resources after 24.♗xg3 ♖xg3 by playing the active 25.♔e5. One cannot say that 23...♗g3, which was incidentally pointed out by Spassky in the post-mortem, would have forced a win. The error was earlier, but clearly Bobby had lost the thread.

24.♖f2 ♔e7

Possible was 24...b6

25.♖e4 ♗g5

25...♗d1+ draws calmly.

26.♗d4 ♖f8??

A horrible blunder. Still best was 26...b6 with a theoretical pawn up but 27.♖cf4 ♔c5 28.♔xc5 ♗xc5 29.♗xc5 ♖xc5 30.♖f8+ ♖g8 31.♖8f7 ♖8f7 would be a draw.

27.♖e5!

Black definitely wishes he'd traded Queens for his has run out of squares.

27...♖d8 28.♗e4 ♗h4 29.♖f4 1-0.

Aftermath

Bobby took this loss rather badly. The next year Larry Evans started a magazine *American Chess Quarterly* and Fischer contributed a goofy article *A Bust to the King's Gambit* for Vol. 1 Number 1, Summer, 1961, "In my opinion, the King's Gambit is busted. It loses by force." He advocated 3...d6! which he called the Berlin Defence Deferred. His point was to avoid Kieseritzky's h2-h4 which, he claimed, let White escape with a draw. He pumped himself up. General chess theory, at least in Reti's version of history, considered that the "romantic" treatment of the King's Gambit involved ♔c4 and especially blowing Black up on the f7 square. And definitely sacrifices!! The "Romantics" gave away material, hunted the King and played for mate; but the "Scientists" were content with taking the centre, recovering the pawn or playing out endgames where a Queenside majority or good centralization were all that was left of White's initial initiative.

Perhaps these over-simplified categories serve instructional purpose, but Bobby, uniquely, turned it on its head and claimed that he himself was the first and only scientist while everyone else was a romantic!

After 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♔f3 d6!? he essentially considered only 4.♔c4 rejecting 4.d4 g5 5.h4 g4 6.♔g1 because of 6...♔h6 but with no supporting analysis, just his assessment of "nothing for the pawn." Eventually in the 1970s, Albin Planinc broke that dam and the sharp line produced dozens of interesting games including a few of my own. Maybe Bobby was using reverse psychology and what he really wanted was to see a lot of King's Gambits? Or to tear apart his own future opponents by surprising them with it himself? It was certainly a giant psychological trap he had built for his editor Larry Evans. GM Evans had held his own with Bobby, drawing all three times in previous U.S. Championships, but when they met in the second round of the 1963 U.S. Closed, the very last opening that Evans expected to see from Bobby was the "busted" King's Gambit. Yet there it was on the board:

□ **Fischer, Bobby**

■ **Evans, Larry**

U.S. Closed, New York, 1963

King's Gambit [C33]

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♔c4

This move had its great popularity in the 1890s after prodigy Rudolf Charousek beat both Lasker and Chigorin with it. Black has an unusually broad choice of sensible continuations but 3...♔f6 is most popular. A 2008 example from the FIDE Grand Prix was Navara–Gelfand: 3.♔c4 ♔f6 4.♔c3 c6 5.♔b3 d5 6.exd5 cxd5 7.♔f3

(7.♗e2+ may also be possible but 7.d4 is the common move. Noteworthy was the brilliancy Morozevich–Anand,

Moscow, 1995, with 7.d4 ♖b4 8.♟f3!? 0-0 9.0-0 ♜xc3 10.bxc3 ♜c7 11.♜e1 ♟c6 12.♜h4 ♟e7 13.♟xf4 ♜xc3 14.♟d2 ♜c7 15.♟e5 ♟f5 16.♜f4 ♟e6 17.♟b4 ♜fc8 18.g4!? ♟d6 19.♜ae1! ♟fe4 20.c4! dxc4 21.♟c2 ♟f6 22.g5 ♟h5 23.♜f3 g6



24.♟xg6!! hxg6 25.♟xg6 fxg6 26.♜xe6 ♜f7 27.♜d5 ♟f5 28.♜xf5! 1-0)

7...♟d6 (rejecting the invitation to 7...d4?! 8.♜e2+ ♟e7 9.♜c4! dxc3 10.♜xf7+ ♟d7 11.dxc3 and White seems to get a strong attack) 8.d4 ♟c6 (8...♟e6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♟e5 ♟c6 11.♟xf4 ♜c8 was equal in Short–Karpov, Najdorf Memorial 2000 ...1/2-1/2, 47) 9.0-0 ♟c6 10.♟g5 0-0 (Improving on 10...h6 11.♟xe6 fxe6 12.♟xf4 ♟xf4 13.♜xf4 0-0 14.♜d3 ♜d6 15.♜af1 with slight pressure in Short–Nikolic, Euro–championship, 1997, ... 1-0, 41) 11.♟xf4 h6 12.♟xc6 fxe6 13.♟e2 (Instead 13.♜d3 looks like a slight edge) 13...♟a5 14.c3 ♟xb3 now Navara played the very safe 15.♜xb3 ...1/2-1/2, 28. The more ambitious option was 15.axb3, e.g., 15...♟e4 16.♜d3 ♟xf4 17.♟xf4 ♜d6 18.♟g6 ♜f6 19.♟e5 but the chances would still be equal.

3...♜h4+ 4.♟f1 d6

In my opinion this is a rather passive variation. Aside from vague similarities to Fischer's idea in the 1961 article there is little to commend it. 3...d6 4.d4 ♜h4+ 5.♟f1 ♟c6 was the move order in Simon Williams – David Howell, a critical game in this year's British Championship: 6.♟c3 ♟g4 7.♜d2 g5 8.g3 fxg3 9.♟g2 ♜h5 10.hxg3 ♜g6 11.♜xg5 (The option 11.♟b5 0-0-0 12.♟xc6 was possible but unnecessary. White stands well) 11...♟xd4 12.♜xg6 fxg6 13.♟xg8 ♜xg8 14.♟d5 0-0-0 15.♟g5 ♜e8 16.♜xh7 ♜g7 17.♜h8 ♜f7 18.♟f6 ♜e5!

(see next diagram)

Eventual champion Howell had been finding one resource after another in a tough position. This counter–attack on the ♟/g5 produced enough complexity for White to get confused. It is an instructive position to try to work out in one's head because White must exactly calculate a six–move variation to complete the winning simplification. 19.♟h6? (The study–like exchanging sequence was



19.♟e3 ♟xc2 20.♟xg4 ♜xe4 21.♜f1 ♜xf1 22.♟xf1 ♟xe3+ 23.♟xe3 ♜xe3 24.♜xf8+ when White's reserve Knight, which has yet to budge from g1, becomes the decisive element in a winning endgame) 19.♜xf6 20.♟xf8 ♜e8 21.♟g7 ♜xh8 22.♟xh8 ♟xc2 23.♟xf6 ♟xa1. Black has a pawn extra in the endgame but the opposite–coloured Bishops foretell a draw...1/2-1/2, 43.

Black's more successful moves are 4...g5, 4...d5 and even the radical 4...b5 although after 4...b5 5.♟xb5 Maroczy's 5...f5!? is likely a better choice than 5...♟f6 which appeared in a thematic exhibition game Short–Kasparov, London, 1993. The players hadn't chosen the opening; rather various unclear lines were tossed in a hat and selected along with the drawing of the player's colours. On his own, Kasparov would surely not have risked 4...b5, especially as he later said that he couldn't see any point to it at all. The game proceeded 4...b5 5.♟xb5 ♟f6 6.♟f3 ♜h5 (The problem with the more natural 6...♜h6 7.d3 ♟h5 8.♟h4! ♜g5 9.♟f5 c6 10.g4! ♟f6 11.♜g1



11...cxb5 12.h4 ♜g6 13.h5 ♜g5 14.♜f3 ♟g8 15.♟xf4 ♜f6 16.♟c3 ♟c5 17.♟d5! ♜xb2 18.♟d6! ♟xg1 19.e5 ♜xa1+ 20.♟e2 ♟a6 21.♟xg7+ ♟d8 22.♜f6+ ♟xf6 23.♟e7 mating in Anderssen–Kieseritzky, London, 1851, the famous 'immortal game'.) 7.♟c3 g5 8.d4 ♟b7 9.h4 ♜g8 10.♟g1 gxh4? (better was 10...g4.) 11.♜xh4 ♜g6 12.♜e2 ♟xc4 13.♜xf4



Behold! A wonder Rook! 13...f5 14. d4 15. dxc4 and the World Champion resigned in disgust, later fuming dramatically on TV about the bogus counter gambit.

5. dxc3

A concrete option is 5. d4 to meet ...e6 by 6. d3 with potential forage after e6xc6 and b3 hitting c6 and b7, or b5+ hitting e8 and b7. A Black Queen on c8 would protect all these sensitive squares but she is otherwise occupied. Ivanchuk–Nikolic, Antalya, 2004, always looked better for White after 5...e6 6. d3 d6 7. f3 g4 8. dxc3 e7 9. h3 g6 10. e4xf4



Recovering the pawn while keeping the space advantage. Play went 10...0-0 11. e1 d5 12. h2 g3+ 13. e3g3 14. dxc2 g6 15. d4 h6 16. g3 d7 17. g2 b6 18. e6 fxe6 19. h1 c5 20. d5 fxf4 21. gxf4 fxf4 22. dxe6 f8 23. b4 f6 24. b5 e6 25. bxc5 h4 26. dxc4 h4 27. b3 d5 28. cxb6 1-0.

Krishnan Sasikiran usually plays 1. d4 but evidently he has an optional wild repertoire for 'must-win' situations like against Armenian Gabriel Sargissian at the Inventi tournament in Antwerp last summer. The King's Gambit, with its low draw likelihood, is ideal for such situations. Sasikiran played the direct 5. d3 bothering the Queen while e4-e2 was still an option. Black walked into this with 5...h5. In my understanding, 5...h6 retaining options of ...g8-f6-h5 or ...g7-g5 looks more flexible, e.g., 5. d4 d6 6. d3 h6 7. d3 c6 8. e5 d5 9. e1 d5 10. d3 e7 11. g1 g5 12. d2 g4 13. f2 d7 was a game in Max Lange—

Louis Paulsen, 1864.

Sasikiran–Sargissian went 5. d3 h5 6. d4 d6 7. d3 e6 8. e2 e7 9. e4xf4 0-0 10. h3 a5 11. d2 h8 12. d3 a6 13. a3 c6 14. f2 d5 15. b4 d8 16. h2 d7



This type of middlegame position is what the 'scientists' want from a Bishop's Gambit: the strong centre pawns and well-centralized pieces. White could prevent ...f7–f5 by 17. g4 when ...d6 is forced, but then White's King has somewhat less shelter and the Rooks still aren't in play. Instead Sasikiran centralized. 17. e1! f5 18. e5 h4+ 19. dxc4 h4+ 20. f1 d4 21. d2 h4 22. exd6! (Now White is winning) 22...f4 23. d4 f6 24. f2 h3 25. dxc7 g4 26. g1 d6 27. e2 e2 28. e2 d3 29. e1 f6 30. ad1 xc7 31. d6 f7 32. d8 g8 33. dxb7 f5 34. e4 f8 35. e5 g6 36. d8 d8 37. dxd8 d5 38. c4 d3 39. h2 1-0.

5...e6 6. e2 c6 7. d3 e7!

On e7 the Queen will be handy for defence.

8. d4 e4 9. e4 g5 10. e5 d5

Fischer's notes from the January 1964 *Chess Life* claimed 10...dxc5 11. dxc5 d7 12. d4 dxe5 13. dxc5 e5 14. d2 d5! would equalize. After a further 15. dxd5 cxd5 16. dxc5 g7 17. e4xf4 White has the healthier pawn structure and lead in development, but Black is hanging on.

11. d3 a6 12. d2

This is the critical position.



12...♖b4

Here Bobby annotated "12...f6 loses to 13.♖f5 ♗g7 14.exf6 ♗xf6 15.♗xf4! gxf4 16.♖xf4 with a winning attack. It is important to repel white's Queen from its present diagonal." However this seems to be highly debatable. Consider the "winning attack": Black has to play 16...♖f8 but then what?



The direct tactical sequence is 17.♖e1+ ♖e7 18.♖h5 but after 18...♗xd4! 19.♖xd4 ♖xf5+ 20.♖xf5 Black has the hidden resource 20...0-0! both unpinning his Knight and pinning White's. This turns things around and Black stays a piece ahead since White's cavalry gets custered.

13.♖d1 0-0-0 14.c3 ♖a6 15.h4

Breaking up the pawn chain is thematic.

15...g4 16.♖h2**16...h5?**

Here definitely 16...f6! was required.

17.♖xf4 ♖xh4 18.♖g1 ♖h6?!

White is also better after 18...♗h6 19.♖f1 ♖e7 20.♖xh5 ♖d7 21.♖e3 but this is worse as the precarious ♗h6 becomes a target.

19.♖f1 ♖e7 20.♖xh5 ♖g8 21.♖fg3 ♖g6 22.♖f4 ♖g5 23.♗e3 ♖c7 24.♖d2 ♖g8 25.♖fe2 f6 26.exf6 ♖xf6 27.♗xh6 ♗d6 28.♖f1 ♖e6 29.♗f4 ♖de8 30.♖h6 ♗xf4

31.♖xf4 ♖e7 32.♖f6 ♖e6 33.♖e5 ♖g5 34.♖xe7 ♖xe7 35.♖f8+ ♖xf8 36.♖xf8+ 1-0.

The King's Gambit was an integral factor in Duncan Suttles forceful repertoire when he went on a streak of U.S. week-enders in 1965. He played the Breyer Gambit with consistent success, but usually against weaker opposition. However his USCF rating zoomed so high that he was invited to the 1965 U.S. Closed. Duncan was a dual U.S.-Canada citizen and had played the Canadian Closed of 1961 and 1963. Based in Reno, Nevada, he travelled all over by bus. The U.S. Championship was always a year-end 14-player round-robin held in New York. Fischer would always win. In 1964 he even scored a hard-to-believe 13-0! Suttles debut was unimpressive, flu-influenced, but he did win a sharp game which was a big influence on me. It is game 30 in *Chess on the Edge* Vol. 1.

□ **Suttles, Duncan**■ **Addison, William****U.S. Closed, N.Y., 1965***King's Gambit Declined [C30]***1.e4 e5 2.f4**

Suttles later switched to the Vienna Game.

2...♗c5 3.♖f3 d6 4.c3

So far, so Philidor.

4...♖f6

Suttles-Shulman, Canadian Closed Winnipeg, 1963 went 4...♖e7 5.d4 ♗b6 6.♗b5+ c6 7.♗d3 ♖d7 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.0-0 with a tense struggle.

5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 ♗b6

This retreat has overtaken the older 6...♗b4+ in popularity.

7.♖c3 0-0 8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 ♖d5 10.♗g5!**10...f6**

In 1988, at the Oakham House Futurity at Ryerson, Chicago Master Johan Stopa surprised me with an improve-

ment 10...♖xc3 11.bxc3 ♖c8!? (setting up ...f7–f6 or ...c7–c5 for counter–play) 12.a4! (This turned out to be a strong reply since if 12...c5!? 13.a5 ♖c7 the central pressure disappears and simply 14.♔d3 will produce an attack even if Black wins material on the queenside. A sample line would be 14...♖c6 15.0-0 h6 16.♙f4 ♙xa5 17.♙b1 cxd4 18.♖d3 g6 19.♖xa5 ♖xa5 20.♙xh6 ♙e6 21.♖xd4 ♖c6 22.♖f4 with an attack. Another option would be the blockade 12...♙a5 when play might develop 13.♙d2 ♙f5 14.♙h4 ♙e4 15.♙c4 ♖d7 16.♖e2 ♖b6 17.♙b5 ♙c6 18.♙f5 and, as Tal used to write, storm clouds gather over the Black King). 12...♖c6 13.♙c2 ♖a5 (Better was 13...♙g4 14.h3 ♙xf3 15.gxf3 when the position is dangerous for both players) 14.0-0 ♙c6 15.♙h1 ♙b3? Going for the distant pawn underestimates the speed of White's attack on the other wing. 16.♖e1 ♙xa4 17.♙d3 ♙b5



If he could exchange the light–squared Bishops then Black would stand well. But White can force mate by a direct assault. Note the specific tactical problem created by the plugged f8–square: it robs the King of a key flight path. Therefore he has few options. 18.♙xh7+! Crisp and forcing (18.♙e4 ♙xf1 19.♖h4 would also be winning.) but 18...♙xh7 19.♖h4+ ♙g8 20.♙f6! ♙d3 21.♖g5 ♙g6 22.♙h4 ♖e6 (On 22...♖d7, 23.♙f5 wins.) 23.♙xg7! ♙xg7 24.♖f6 ♖e8 25.♙f5+ ♙g8 26.♖f1. The arrival of the reserves decides. It's mate in five. 26...♖c4 27.♖h6 ♙xf5 28.♖1xf5 ♖xe5 29.♖h5 1-0.

11.♙c4! c6 12.exf6 gxf6 13.♙h6 ♖e8+ 14.♙f2 ♙h8



Both sides have an isolated pawn and an exposed King. White's lead in development should confer some advantage.

15.♖e1 ♙e6 16.♖d2

Suttles later preferred 16.♖b3 here.

16...♖d7 17.♙xd5! ♙xd5

The dour 17...cxd5 also favours White.

18.♙xd5 cxd5 19.♖xe8+

Surprisingly 19.♖f4 was more exact.

19...♖xe8 20.♖e1



The critical moment of the game is easy to miss. Normally, the attacked Queen might consider ...♖h5 or ...♖g6, either of which allows the attack ♖e7, or the careful ...♖f7 to prevent it. Annotating the game in *Chess Canada* in 1972 Suttles recommended 20...♖g6 21.♖e7 ♖g8 22.g3 when Black can centralize the Knight by 22...♖c5 23.♙g2 ♖e4 but after 24.♖f4 White is still on top.

20...♖f7?

The hard move even to consider is the paradoxical 20...♖e5! self–pinning the Knight but precipitating a crisis. White cannot simply unpin his d–pawn by 21.♙f1?! because 21...♖b5+ breaks the pin with tempo. The 'normal' tactical sequence would be to win a pawn by 21.♙f4 ♖f7 22.♙xe5 fxe5 23.♖xe5 but with ♙f2 the position is not normal and Black can recover the pawn by the skewer 23...♙c7! picking up the unprotected h–pawn. After 24.♖e2 ♙xh2 in *Chess on the Edge*, Harper/Seirawan give 25.♖h6 ♙f4 26.♖e6 with equality. However White has an earlier improvement with 21.♙g5!? since 21...♖g4+ 22.♙g1 ♖b5 23.♙f4 ♙a5 24.♖e2 is an advantage whether Black exchanges Queens or not. Black is better off with the active 22...♖g6 but then 23.♙h4 ♖g8 24.♖f4 should favour White who, as Capa would note, has the fewer pawn islands.

21.♖f4 ♙g8 22.g4! ♖g6 23.♖e7 ♖d8

23...♖c5 would be met 24.♖e5.

24.h4 ♖c2+ 25.♙g1 ♖c7 26.♖f5 ♖g3+ 27.♙h1 ♖h3+ 28.♖h2 1–0.

Incidentally, by the end of the 60s Addison's Elo was nearing 2500 but he retired from chess and became a banker.

As an impressionable young player in 1964, I was intrigued by the exotic Breyer Gambit after watching Suttles' speed games in New York and at the Scarborough Canadian Open. Despite the line being unsound, I ran up a 5-0 score against various defences from A and B level opposition. Nobody that I faced knew the standard refutation which had put the line out of commission in the 1920s. It was 1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♖f3 ♖c6! 4.c3 ♖f6 5.d4 d5 6.e5 ♖c4 7.♗xf4 ♗c7 8.♗d2 f5 9.exf6 ♖xf6 10.♗d3 0-0



This is Spielmann–Grunfeld, Baden Baden, 1925. Instead of pressuring a weak pawn at f7, White's adventuresome Queen faces a happy Rook enjoying the open file. Black has a clear edge. If White wants a better version of this type of position he could have chosen a Vienna. Indeed, Suttles soon switched to it. But in 1965, the Suttles blitz treatment was 4.♗e2 and after 4...d5 5.exd5 ♖b4 6.♗xf4 ♖xc2+ (6...♗f6 7.♗c3 ♖e7+ also wins) 7.♗d1 ♖xa1 8.♗b5+ ♗d7 9.♖c1+



Black should play 9...♗e7 leaving g7 guarded. More usual was 9...♗c7? missing 10.♗c6! *Chess on the Edge* Vol. 3 gives one example that was preserved (since Suttles traveled so light that he didn't keep his score-sheets). Suttles–Aykroyd, Vancouver, 1965, was typically brief: 10...fxe6?! 11.dxe6 ♗f6 12.♗xd7+ ♖f8 13.g4! (Only the

sharpest moves came into consideration) 13...g5?! 14.b3 ♗g7 15.♗b2 ♖f8? 16.♖f5 1-0.

The line I usually faced was 3.♖f3 d5 4.exd5 ♗f6 which proved useful later when many Blacks started preferring the move order 1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 exf4 to avoid the Bishop's Gambit. In that case White can transpose into the sounder lines of Breyer's while avoiding the refutation(s). This fun game was my last with Breyer's original move order:

□ Day, Lawrence

■ Murray, Peter

Eastern Canada Intercollegiate

Carleton vs Western

Montréal 1968

Breyer Gambit [C33]

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♖f3 d5 4.exd5 ♗f6 5.♗b5+

Day–Todd Southam, 30m Active, Toronto, 1993, which had transposed from the Falkbeer, varied with 5.♗c3 c6 6.d4 cxd5 7.♗xf4 ♗c7 8.♗b5+ ♖c6 9.♗ge2 0-0 10.h3 ♖b6 11.0-0-0 ♖b4 12.♗a4 ♗c6 13.♗b3. White's queenside has many defenders while d5 affords a target. Nevertheless, the game is roughly balanced. 13...♖fd8 14.♗e5 ♖ac8 15.♗b1 ♗c4



16.♗f4!? ♖xc3? (Better was 16...♗xc3+ 17.bxc3 ♗c6 which looks unclear. But he only had a minute left and no increments, so...) 17.bxc3 ♗xa2 18.♗e2 a5 19.♗a1! (The move he missed. The attack is repulsed) 19...♖b4 20.cxb4 axb4 21.♗b2 f6 22.♗h2 ♖a8 23.♖a1 ♖c8 24.♖hd1 ♗c3 25.♖d3 ♖c4 26.♖a8+ ♖f7 27.♖h5+ 1-0.

5...♗d7 6.♗c3 ♗d6

Not 6...♗xb5 7.♗xb5 ♗xd5?? 8.♖xd5! winning a piece.

7.♗ge2

After 7.♗xd7+ ♗bxd7 8.d4 Suttles–Potter B., C. Championship, 1965, went 8...♖c7+ 9.♗ge2 g5 10.♗d2 0-0-0 11.0-0-0 ♖b6 with Black better, but...1-0, 38.

7...0-0 8.0-0

With Black's King committed to the short side, 8.♗xd7

♖bxd7 9.d4 made sense.

8...♙g4 9.♗f2



Considering the dangers that can develop on the f-file, it makes sense for Black to plug it up with 9...f3!? 10.gxf3 ♙h3 11.♖e1 and Black can recover the pawn at once with 11...♖xd5 since 12.♖xd5 ♗g5+ is a fork. However after 12.d3 White looks a bit better. Instead Black continues in the counter gambit style.

9...c6 10.dxc6 ♖xc6 11.♖xf4 ♖c8 12.♖h1 ♙b8

The option was 12...♙e5 13.♙xc6 ♙d4 14.♗g3 ♖xc6 15.d3.

13.♙xc6 ♖xc6 14.d3 ♙c8

Clearing the way for ...♖g4 and ...♖h6 leads to a tactical crisis.

15.♗h4 ♗a5

Threatening ...g5.

16.♙d2! ♖g4?

Better was 16...♖d8 but after 17.♖ae1 completing the development, White has a significant advantage.



It's combo-bombo time.

17.♖cd5 ♗xd2

Relatively better was 17...♗d8 18.♗xd8 ♖xd8 19.♖e7+ only losing the exchange.

18.♖e7+ ♖h8 19.♖fg6+ ♖xg6 20.♖xg6+ ♖g8

The crisp mangle here would be 20...♖g8 21.♖e7+ ♖h8 22.♖xf7! ♖e8 23.♖g6+ ♖g8 24.♗e7! and it's all over. Instead I spotted a boring endgame where White's Rook pair easily dominates.

21.♖xf8? ♗h6 22.♗xh6 ♖xh6 23.♖xh7 ♖xh7 24.♖ae1 ♙e6 25.d4 ♖g4 26.♖e4 ♖f6 27.♖e3 ♖d5 28.♖ef3 ♖f6 29.b3 ♖e4 30.♖xf7 ♙xf7 31.♖xf7 b6 32.♖b7 1-0.

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FSMIA

By Steven Bolduc

First Saturday Produits par une équipe dont l'organisateur international d'échecs (IO) Nago Laszlo est le principal intervenant, les tournois du premier samedi (Firstsaturday) du mois à Budapest en Hongrie ont déjà une réputation mondiale. Ces tournois attirent entre 40 et 80 joueurs de plus de 10 fédérations chaque mois et procurent une opportunité à l'obtention de normes de MI ou de GMI, ou plus simplement une augmentation de la cote FIDE. Ces tournois ouverts à tous moyennant une contribution raisonnable sont possibles sur l'appui d'une base d'excellents joueurs hongrois. Les joueurs étrangers qui s'y inscrivent peuvent ainsi être assurés d'avoir une 'catégorie' adéquate pour leurs ambitions. L'on retrouvera les détails sur www.firstsaturday.hu. Nicolas Arsenault, maître québécois, a joué en mars 2009 dans un tournoi à norme de MI des firstsaturday. Sa cote FIDE est de 2153. Je vous présente la partie l'opposant à un joueur junior de Hongrie. Oliver Mihok, MF, est classé second dans les juniors du pays. Sa cote est maintenant 2405. Nicolas est un joueur de 1.e4. Avec les noirs il joue la défense française contre ce même coup. Contre le pion dame il affectionne les défenses indiennes.

□ **Mihok, Oliver (2153)**

■ **Arsenault, Nicolas (2405)**

FSIMA, 15.03.2009

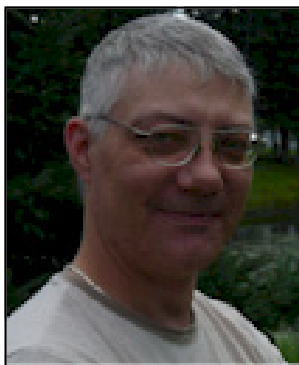
Défense française (variante MacCutcheon) [C12]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♖c3 ♖f6 4.♗g5 ♗b4

La variante McCutcheon (ici pour 4...♗b4) est ainsi nommée après que John Lindsay McCutcheon de Philadelphie (1857-1905) a amené cette variante à l'attention du public quand il s'en servit pour défaire le champion du monde William Steinitz dans une séance simultanée à Manhattan en 1895. Les alternatives sont 4...dxc4 (classique; C11) et 4...♗e7 5.e5 ♖fd7 6.♗xe7 ♗xe7 (C14) ou 6.h4 (attaque Alekhine-Chatard; C13).

5.e5 h6 6.♗e3

6.♗d2 est la ligne principale. Elle amène des échanges de pièces mineures après 6...♗xc3+ 7.bxc3 ♖e4 8.♗g4 g6 9.♗d3 ♖xd2 10.♗xd2 etc. La théorie a raisonné, dans une optique moderne d'initiative, qu'un sacrifice de pion, pour profiter de l'absence de pièces noires sur l'aile roi, était intéressant. S'est vu 6.♗c1!? ♖e4 7.♗g4 g6 8.♖ge2 etc. Et, la variante de la partie 6.♗e3 qui va également dans le même sens i.e. un sacrifice de pion.



6...♖e4 7.♗g4

7...♗f8 est la ligne principale. Alors que le vieux et surprenant 7...g5 est à reconsidérer, tel que joué par Alapin en 1902! 7...g6 de la partie est plus ambitieux. Ce coup permet le transfert du roi noir vers l'aile dame, laissant l'aile roi à elle-même.

7...g6 8.a3 ♗a5

Ce coup: 8...♗a5 est récent, 8...♗xc3 étant le plus populaire. J'ai 5 dans Megabase 2009 avec 8...♗a5 et toutes datent de peu. Les joueurs avec les blancs ont tous répondu 9.♖ge2. Mihok semble avoir innové avec 9.b4.

9.b4

9.♖ge2 c5 10.dxc5 ♖c6 (10...♖xc3 11.♖xc3 ♗xc3+ 12.bxc3 ♖c6 13.♗d4 ♗d7 14.♗d3 ♗c8 15.0-0 ♖e7 16.♗ab1 ♗c6 17.♗h4 ♖f5 18.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 19.g4 ♖e7 20.f4 ♖d7 21.f5 gxf5 22.gxf5 ♗cg8+ 23.♗f2 ♗g5 24.♗g1 ♗hg8 25.f6 Sohl,J (2161)–Machowitsch,W (1710)/Frankfurt 2008/½-½ (46)) 11.b4 ♖xe5 12.♗h3 ♗c7 (12...♖xc3 13.♖xc3 ♗c7 14.♖b5 ♗b8 15.♗d4 f6 16.♗h4 ♖f7 17.f4 ♖c6 18.♗b2 a6 19.♖c3 g5 20.♗h5+ ♖g7 21.f5 exf5 22.0-0-0 d4 23.♖a4 ♗e6 24.♖b6 ♗f4+ 25.♖b1 ♗e8 26.♗f3 ♗d8 27.♗c4 Vehi Bach,V (2335)–Benitah,Y (2417)/Salou 2006/0-1 (33)) 13.♖xe4 dxe4 14.♗d1 ♗d7 15.♖c3 f5 16.♖b5 ♖f7 17.♗c4 ♗c8 18.♗h4 ♗c5 19.♗d4 g5 20.♗h5 ♗xb5 21.♗xe5 ♗xc4 22.♗xh8 ♖e7 23.♗g7 ♗c6 Smikovski,I (2558)–Bagirov,R (2486)/Serpukhov 2008/1-0.

9...♖xc3

Il est évident que c'est de cette manière que l'idée blanche se teste.

10.bxa5 c5

Un coup naturel dans la défense française. La chaîne de pions, tel qu'enseigné par le penseur A.Nimzovich, est attaquée par la base.

11.a6

Les blancs échangent ce pion avant qu'il ne disparaisse tout simplement.

11...c4

Clore l'aile dame est logique. Le roi noir y trouvera peut-être refuge. Ouvrir le jeu avec 11...♖c6 12.♗d3 cxd4 13.axb7 ♗xb7 est risqué pour rien.

12.axb7 ♗xb7 13.♖e2 ♖xe2 14.♗xe2 ♗c6

Ce fou 'problème' trouve de l'emploi.

15.♗d2

La suggestion de Fritz 15.0-0 ♗a4 16.c3 ♖c6 est sensible. Le milieu de partie, du côté blanc, pour profiter de l'emplacement suspect du roi noir, demande le plus de pièces mineures en jeu possible.

15...♗a4 16.♗d1

16.♗a2 est à considérer pour satisfaire l'idée du commen-

taire précédent.

16...a5 17.h4 ♖c6 18.h5 g5 19.0-0 f5

Les noirs se donnent du jeu à l'aile roi, refuge du roi blanc.

20.exf6 ♗xf6 21.c3

Une décision difficile. Échanger le ♔d1 contre son semblable n'est certainement pas un choix dont les blancs peuvent être fiers.

21...♔xd1 22.♗xd1 ♖f5 23.g4 ♗d3 24.♖e1 ♘d7 25.♖e3 ♗h7 26.♗e2 ♔d8 27.♖e1 ♖a6



Il est temps de former la stratégie à poursuivre. Les noirs sont passifs mais solides. L'aile dame est sous contrôle et le roi sécurisé. Idéalement le recyclage du cavalier vers une case centrale donnera du jeu. Ils sont sur la défensive et se doivent d'être patients. Les blancs aussi sont solides. Une entrée forcée vers l'aile dame est souhaitable mais difficile vu la colonne f semi-ouverte et la diagonale b1-h7 et du point d'entrée b3 qui procurent du contre-jeu aux noirs. L'échange des pièces lourdes soulignerait la faiblesse des pions noirs sur la couleur du fou blanc en finale et est donc souhaitable mais n'est guère possible. Je dis que le premier coup à faire est a4, fixant le pion noir sur la case a5. Maintenant, la diagonale a3-f8 devient une allée pour le fou. Tout en gardant une pression sur e6 afin de réduire l'activité du cavalier noir, les blancs pourraient tenter de prendre sous contrôle la colonne semi-ouverte f et la diagonale h2-b8 avec la dame. Un combat d'acquisition de 'contrôle' tout en essayant d'échanger les pièces lourdes. Le levier f4 étant l'ultime arme pour générer un pion passé.

28.f4

Je crains que les blancs forcent trop la note, preuve qu'ils n'ont pas déterminé le bon plan stratégique. Il fallait attendre la finale! Du coup, le roi blanc sera désormais toujours exposé. Même si tactiquement la position est stable, stratégiquement, je pense que c'est une erreur grave.

28...gxf4 29.♖f3

Les blancs regagnent le pion.

29...♖b6 30.♔xf4 ♖g8 31.♔g3 ♘f7 32.♔h1 ♗g7 33.♗c2 ♗f6 34.♔g2 ♖b3

La Tour noire reste mobile et toujours en contact rapide avec l'aile roi...même si à première vue cela ne semble pas le cas.

35.♖f1 ♗g7

Évidemment pas 35...♖xa3 36.♔c1 +-.

36.a4

Finalement.

36...♔d6 37.♔e5

Ici, les blancs peuvent faire l'échange des pièces mineures qui restent. Ils semblent penser que le fou soit supérieur. C'est peut-être le cas mais pour cela il faudrait anticiper un ♔e4 et un sacrifice de qualité sur ce cavalier. Sinon, il m'apparaît évident qu'un cavalier en e4 fait apparaître des tactiques profitable aux noirs.

37...♗e7 38.♔f6 ♖e8 39.♗h7+ ♔c6 40.♔e5 ♖b7 41.♗xh6 ♔e4

Et voilà. Les blancs ne sont pas prêts pour l'activation de ce cavalier. Comme ils ont été à la pêche et ont été capturer un menu fretin (pion h6) ils s'exposent à du danger. Avant la finale, les dieux ont placé le milieu de jeu comme disait S.Tarrash.

42.♔h3??



Une erreur tactique surgit dès que ça se complique un peu mais je gage qu'il soit difficile de tenir. Par exemple le meilleur 42.g5 ♖b2+ 43.♔h3 ♔xg3 44.♔xg3 (non pas 44.♔xg3 ?? ♖h8!-la dame est trappée) devient vite un casse-tête sans fin juste pour rester à flot. Pratiquement, l'erreur viendra avec des conséquences malheureuses. La voici.

42...♖h7!+-

Gain de tempo pour la colonne h.

43.♗e3

Si 43.♗xh7 ♔g5+ -+.

43...♖xg4!!

Un sacrifice de toute beauté conséquent à l'ouverture de l'aile roi et au placement parfait, je dirais harmonieux, des pièces noires.

44.♖xg4 ♗xh5+ 45.♔g2 ♗xg4+ 46.♔g3 ♗h3+ 0-1.

4th Edmonton International Chess Festival

By Tony Ficzero

The Edmonton International Chess Festival took place this past December 17-21 at the Edmonton Chess Club. Organized by Vlad Rekhson and Micah Hughey, the festival included the Edmonton International, the WBX (Week Before Christmas) Team Tournament, a lecture by GM Josh Friedel and a simul by the star of the tournament, GM Victor Mikhalevski.

Normally the EICF is held over the long weekend in August. However, that would have been a little tough to do for the organizers as they also organized the 2009 Canadian Open in July. Putting together two major events within two weeks is a little much to ask. Wisely, Vlad and Micah decided to move the event to December.

For the first time in the tournament's history, GM and IM norms were guaranteed in this ten player/nine round event. That means that there were enough titled players where you could be certain that you would play the required number of games against titled players, as well as meet all of the other FIDE GM and IM norm requirements. All you had to do was win! It's that simple.

I acted as arbiter this time around and also ran the DGT boards. This helped the organizing committee concentrate on other duties. From where I was sitting, the organizers did an exceptional job from start to finish. The only major issue to surface prior to the start of round one was the news that IM elect Daniel Rensch of the USA would not be able to play. Vlad was able to fill the void with Calgary FM



Tournament winners GM Josh Friedel vs. GM Victor Mikhalevski

Dale Haessel. Things were ready to roll.

Most of the featured players stayed at the Glenora Bed & Breakfast Inn which is just a few short blocks away from the Edmonton Chess Club. The building itself is a historical landmark in the neighbourhood. It was built in 1912 as apartment dwellings. The most famous tenant was one Wilfred "Wop" May. Wilfred gained fame for being the pilot that was being pursued by Baron Von Richtofen, the infamous "Red Baron," when he was allegedly shot out of the sky by Canadian Ace, Captain Arthur "Roy" Brown. There are a flock of theories out there about what really happened that day, but I like this one.

The distance from the Glenora to the club is about a ten minute walk, a perfect distance to get yourself some fresh air before you play. Most of the players chose to walk each day. I was lazy and drove the six blocks. The only problem with walking was the extreme cold weather that was happening. Only one week before the tournament, Edmonton experienced -45° Celsius temperatures, before wind-chill,

4 th Edmonton International Progressive Crosstable (CAN) 17-21 xii										cat. VII (2412)				
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T
1	Josh Friedel	g	USA	2551	D7	W8	W6	W2	D3	D4	W9	W10	D5	7
2	Victor Mikhalevski	g	ISR	2607	W9	W5	W8	L1	D4	W10	W7	W6	D3	7
3	Marc Esserman	m	USA	2408	W4	W10	D7	D6	D1	W9	D5	W8	D2	6.5
4	Gergely Antal	m	HUN	2495	L3	W9	D5	D8	D2	D1	W10	W7	W6	6
5	Jesse Kraai	g	USA	2509	W8	L2	D4	W10	W7	D6	D3	L9	D1	5
6	Eric Hansen	f	CAN	2409	W10	D7	L1	D3	W9	D5	D8	L2	L4	4
7	Edward Porper	m	CAN	2445	D1	D6	D3	W9	L5	D8	L2	L4	D10	3.5
8	Dale Haessel	f	CAN	2201	L5	L1	L2	D4	D10	D7	D6	L3	D9	2.5
9	Keith MacKinnon		CAN	2125	L2	L4	D10	L7	L6	L3	L1	W5	D8	2
10	Vladimir Pechenkin	f	CAN	2372	L6	L3	D9	L5	D8	L2	L4	L1	D7	1.5



Foreground: FM Vladimir Pechenkin vs. IM Marc Esserman
Background: IM Edward Porper vs. FM Eric Hansen

making it the coldest place on the planet. On the last day, I offered rides to any player who wanted one. Jesse Kraai decided he would walk (jog is more like it). He ended up beating the rest of us to the club!

After the games we usually wound up going out for dinner at the local Boston Pizza or some other restaurant in the city. The games usually ended around 11 pm which limited our eating and drinking options. After the last round, all the players and organizers went out for dinner and drinks at a local establishment. Entertainment was provided by Marc Esserman and Eric Hansen who played a blindfold game. The final result of the game is still a mystery but it surfaced on the USCF site in an article written by GM Josh Friedel (<http://main.uschess.org/content/view/10009/571/>).

Unfortunately, nobody earned a norm at the event. Two players did come close as IM Marc Esserman missed a GM norm by 1/2 point and FM Eric Hansen missed out on what would have been his final IM norm by a point. FIDE had recently revamped their regulations for norms. I believe Marc would have qualified for the GM norm under the old rules, but I could be mistaken.

In the end it was GMs Josh Friedel of the US and Victor Mikhalevski of Israel taking 1st-2nd place with 7/9. Josh had the better tie-break and took home the silver platter. US IM Marc Esserman claimed 3rd all by himself with 6.5/9 and it could be argued that he played the most enterprising chess of the tournament. IM Gergely Antal of Hungary,



IM Gergely Antal

currently attending university in Texas, also put in a solid performance with 6/9, losing just one game to Esserman. GM Jesse Kraai was slightly off form and only managed 5/9. FM Eric Hansen finished with 4/9 and was only given trouble by the three GMs. Eric may not be happy with the final outcome, but I am certain that his final IM norm is not far away. Edmonton's IM Edward Porper did not have a good tournament this time around and finished with 3.5/9. FM Dale Haessel had his moments and should have finished a little higher than he did, missing a few opportunities over the board when he stood better. Dale finished with 2.5/9. The only non-titled player was Keith MacKinnon of Saskatchewan who put in a respectable effort with 2/9. Keith took his first GM scalp with his 8th round victory over Jesse Kraai and should have drawn with Mikhalevski in their encounter, making a critical mistake in the end-game in a drawn position. FM Vladimir Pechenkin of Edmonton scored 1.5/9 and there is no doubt he was not happy with the final standings. At the very least, Vlad gained some valuable experience. All the games for the tournament are available online to view or download at http://www.albertachess.org/EICF2009/EICF_Games.html.

Thanks must go to the organizing committee headed by Vlad and Micah. They produced an excellent tournament and very good playing conditions. Terry Seehagen should also receive praise for keeping the tournament site in tip top shape. The atmosphere at the tournament was always friendly and enjoyable. As the arbiter, the only dispute I had was with the waitress at a restaurant when I was told they were sold out of my favourite beer. That I can live with.

The 5th Edmonton International will happen this summer from July 28-August 2. Details are short at this time. Watch this newsletter or visit the ACA website for details (www.albertachess.org)

Here are a few games from the tournament.

Notes by Eric Hansen

□ Hansen, Eric (2409)

■ Pechenkin, Vladimir (2372)

4th Edmonton International (1), 17.12.2009

Old Indian Defence [A55]

1.d4

I hadn't eaten that day and just got to the tournament after a 3 hour bus ride and a day at school, so it's safe to say I was exhausted and not wanting to play.

1...♢f6 2.c4 d6 3.♢f3 ♢bd7 4.♢c3 e5

Black's plan in this opening is to play solid and give White a large centre. Then Black hopes for White to overextend with his space advantage so he can counter-attack.

5.e4 ♤e7 6.♤e2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.h3

I've had a bit of experience in this sort of position. White's

dark squared Bishop is very valuable, so ♗g5 is out of the question and therefore the most logical place is on e3. The move h3 is needed to prevent the annoying ...♟g4 at some point.

8...a6

Trying either to gain space on the queenside with a b7–b5 push or see if White will create some holes by playing a4, when he will reply with a5, gaining valuable queenside dark squares.

9.a4?!

I play a similar set up as Black, and so I knew that he would play ...a5 right away. I was not very happy with this move, but played it because I couldn't find a way to prevent ...b5, which is supposed to be good for Black in this opening. It turns out that I was completely wrong. Better was 9.♗c3 b5 10.a3± keeping the tension and still having a comfortable space advantage.

9...a5 10.♖e1 ♗e8 11.♗e3 exd4 12.♟xd4 ♟c5 13.♖c2 ♗f8 14.♗f3=

The past few moves are fairly standard for Black so he was playing pretty quickly. White's replies have been mainly forced and now I must come up with a plan if I want to play for a win.

14...h6 15.♖ad1 ♖b6 16.g4!?∞

This move is quite risky and leads the game into unclear waters. The reason I like this move is because it changes the nature of the position. I think I read somewhere that if you don't like the way the position is headed, the best thing to do is to try and change the nature of the position. Now the game turns sharp and tactical, suiting me a bit more.

16...♗d7 17.♗g2 ♖ad8 18.f4 ♗c8 19.♗f2 ♟h7

Black is waiting for me to push my kingside pawns and make weaknesses.

20.♗f1

Shifting my pieces to the best squares for a kingside pawn storm.

20...g6 21.♟f3 ♖b4

This is why I played ♗f1 earlier.

22.f5

A very aggressive move which looks bad because it gives up my last dark square and invites Black to come in. We were starting to get into time trouble now with 18 moves left before time control. However, this is the only pawn push that can actually create some attacking chances on his King. 22.g5 leads to nothing, e.g., 22.g5 hxg5 23.fxg5 ♗c6±. Too many weaknesses and no attack.

22...gxf5

My threat was 23.fxg6 fxg6 followed by e5, hitting his unprotected g6 pawn with my Queen.

23.gxf5?

Played quickly, and not the best. 23.exf5 is better as I have threats such as ♗h4, while he also has problems finding places for his pieces. For example, he can't play 23...♗g7 (which I was afraid of) immediately because of 24.♖xd6!, which I missed. 23.exf5 ♖xe1 24.♖xe1± is still a very sharp position.

23...♗g7

Natural, as it is a strong diagonal while it also allows Black to use the open g–file after ...♟h8 followed by ...♖g8.

24.♗d4

This looks odd as the Bishop was the last piece controlling the dark squares. However, my plan is to go after the weak h6 square.

24...♗xd4+ 25.♟xd4 ♟h8 26.♟h1

We were both in bad time trouble here and these moves were played with little calculation. I was nervous but confident because during mutual time trouble, I have a tendency of emerging ahead because of my quick calculating ability.

26...♟d7 27.♖d2 ♟e5!

The b2 pawn is worth much more than the h6 pawn, as after I lose b2, my pawns become weak while my pieces are threatened and in disarray. Taking on h6 creates no immediate threats.

28.b3 ♖g8

Natural and correct. This position looks good for Black but it is easy to underestimate the tactical resources in the position.

29.♖b2

I don't have time to get my Rook on the g–file, and right now my pieces have no threats at all. This move, at the very least, may have a discovered check or pin the Knight on e5 in a few moves. We only had a few minutes to make 10+ moves here.

29...♖g3?

I was hoping for this when I played ♖b2, and had calculated a line several moves deep. 29...♖g7!± is a multi–purpose move that will allow Black to double on the g–file while also making sure no b2–h8 tactics can come into play. Black would have been clearly better had he played



FM Dale Haessel

this.

30.♟ce2!

Black probably saw this when he played ...♟g3 and had planned ...♟e3, when there are numerous threats against White, including the fall of the e4 pawn. Here he should have retreated the Rook.

30...♟e3

30...♟g7 31.♟f4∞ ♟dg8 32.♟d3 with an unclear position, but I prefer Black as he has more tricks and fewer weaknesses.

31.♟c1

Forcing 31...♟xe4 and allowing Black to play ...♟d3 after 32.♟xh6; 31.♟c2 ♟xb3 (31...♟xb3 32.♟xe5+ dxe5 33.♟xd8+-); 32.♟xe5+ dxe5 33.♟xd8+ ♟g7 34.♟xc3 ♟xc3 35.♟xc8∞.

31...♟xe4 32.♟xh6 ♟d3

Seems like a good way to win the exchange.



33.♟g2

This is the position I was hoping for, and now my mating threats become real. It is very easy for Black to slip here with only a couple minutes on the clock, by being a little greedy. For example, winning the piece with 33...♟xd4 34.♟xd4 34.♟xe1 35.f6! 35.♟g8 (forced) 36.♟e4 ♟g6 ♟xg6 and there is no way to stop mate on g7.

33...♟f2+

Dodging my trick, however White has a better position now as his pieces are coming out.

34.♟h2

Black, who was trying to play for the win a couple moves ago, now has only one move which is not totally losing. With under a minute to play here, it is extremely difficult to find 34...♟g4!, as you need to see first of all why that funny looking move is required.

34...♟xd1??

Under extreme time pressure, he needed to make a move and didn't see my idea. In the post-mortem, Vlad said when he avoided this trap on the previous move, that it

wasn't based on this sequence as he had not seen it:

34...♟e5 35.♟h4!+-; 34...♟xd4 35.♟xd4 ♟xd1 36.f6 ♟g8 37.♟e4 ♟g6 38.♟xg6+-; 34...♟ce8 35.♟f1 ♟xd1 (35...♟e4 36.♟xe4 ♟xe4 37.♟g1+-) 36.f6!; 34...♟g4 35.♟g1±. A pretty crazy position although White has more resources here.

35.f6 1-0.

Black resigned with a few seconds on the clock. Only 35...♟g8 prevents ♟g7 mate, but after 36.♟xe4 the mates on h7 and g7 cannot be stopped.

A very satisfying way to end the game as it always feels good to win with tactical sequences like this. My opening was not good but I managed to steer the position into complications and use my calculating ability and a bit of luck from there. My opponent played an excellent game and only the natural looking ...♟g3-e3 maneuver cost him the game.

Notes by Josh Friedel

□ Friedel, Josh (2551)

■ Mikhalevski, Victor (2607)

4th Edmonton International (4), 19.12.2009

Ruy Lopez Breyer [C95]

Victor had 3-0 going into this round while I had 2.5, so this was a crucial game towards determining the winner of the event.

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.♟b5 a6 4.♟a4 ♟f6 5.0-0 ♟e7

In our previous game, he played the Open Ruy, which is his main weapon, but this time he decided to surprise me.

6.♟e1 b5 7.♟b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♟b8 10.d4 ♟bd7 11.♟bd2 ♟b7 12.♟c2 ♟e8 13.♟f1 ♟f8 14.♟g3 g6 15.a4 ♟b6

This was obviously a move prepared by Victor. 15...c5, ...c6 and ...♟g7 are more common.

16.b3 ♟g7 17.a5 ♟bd7 18.d5 ♟e7 19.c4 c5

My opponent was still playing instantly, and it is always worrisome when you are stuck in your opponent's prep. I spent some time and came up with an idea that I think is a good one and, more importantly, got him to think.

20.cxb5

20.♟h2 b4 led to a short draw in Motylev-Ivanchuk.

20...axb5 21.b4

My idea is quite simple. I don't want to allow Black to completely lock the queenside with b4, and in this way I can use the weakness on b5. He goes astray right away.

21...c4?

(see next diagram)

21...cxb4 22.♟d2 b3 23.♟xb3 ♟c5 24.♟c2 is pleasant for White, as the b5 pawn is more vulnerable than the a5 one, and I still have a pleasant central space advantage;



21...♙c8!? is an interesting try, with the idea that after 22.♙d2 c4 23.♙e2 ♖b8! Black has better chances to defend with his Bishop on d7 and Knight on a6.

22.♙e2!

Once the Knight gets to c3, it will be very unpleasant for Black. He'll be tied to his b5 pawn and I'll be free to build on the kingside.

22...♗f8 23.♙c3 ♙a6 24.g4

I don't want to allow ...♙h6, which might ease the pressure a bit. Now I'm free to build my position while it is difficult for Black to untangle his forces.

24...♗eb8 25.♙e3 ♙e8 26.♗d2 ♙c7 27.♙h2 ♙f6 28.♗g1 ♙h8 29.♙h4 ♗e7 30.♙g5!?

I had planned this when I played ♙h4. My idea is to keep his f6 Knight pinned while preparing f4.

30...♗g8

This ends up being an unfortunate square for the Rook. 30...♙c8 immediately might have been more tenacious.

31.♗g3 ♙c8 32.♗f1 ♙d7 33.f4

This was my big idea.

33...h6 34.♗gf3!

34.♙xf6 ♗xf6 35.♙g2 exf4 is far from clear.

34...exf4 35.♙xf4 ♙h7

This is very awkward, but it is tough to find an improvement. 35...g5 doesn't help, as after 36.♙e3 gxh4 (36...♙xg4 37.♗xf6) 37.♗xf6 ♙xf6 38.♗xf6 ♗g6 39.♙d4 White is crushing.; 35...♙xg4+ 36.hxg4 ♗xh4+ (36...♙xg4 37.♗g3 ♗xh4+ 38.♙g2 transposes) 37.♙g2 ♙xg4 38.♗g3 also gives White a huge attack.

36.♙g3 ♙e8

(see next diagram)

The only move, as otherwise ♗xf7 wins immediately. It is now clear why ...♗g8 was an unfortunate move; his King needs room to breathe!

37.e5!

I break open Black's position, and let my last piece (c2



Bishop) into the game.

37...♙xe5 38.♗e1?

This natural move may throw away a large part of White's advantage. 38.♙xe5+ ♗xe5+ 39.♙g2 is stronger, with ♗xh6 and ♗c1 threatened. 39...♗g5 (39...♗g7 40.♗e3 and Re7 is going to crush.) 40.♗d4+ f6 41.♗xf6! ♙xf6 42.♙f3! ♙e6 43.dxe6 ♙c6 44.♙e4+.

38...♙g5?

38...♙xg3+ 39.♙xg3 ♗g5 40.♗d4+ ♗g7 is an interesting defense Victor found after the game, but after 41.♗fe3 ♙d7 42.♙f3 ♗f6 43.♗e7, it looks nearly impossible to hold.; 38...♗g5!, and now after 39.♙xe5+ dxe5 40.♗xg5 hxg5 41.♙g2 f6 I still prefer White, but it isn't easy to break through while Black has a pawn for his troubles.

39.♗xe5!

Now Black is completely lost.

39...dxe5 40.d6 ♗d8 41.♗e3 ♗xd6 42.♗xe5+ ♗xe5 43.♙xe5+ f6 44.♙xd6 ♙xf3+ 45.♙xf3 ♙a6

Victor plays on awhile, but Black has no real chances from here on.

46.♙d4 ♙g7 47.♙g3 ♙d7 48.♙dxb5 ♗e8 49.♙f2 ♗e6 50.♙d1 ♙c6 51.♙e2 ♙xb5 52.♙xb5 c3 53.♙d3 g5 54.♙d4 ♗xd6 55.♙f5+ ♙f8 56.♙xd6 ♙xb4 57.♙f5 ♙e7 58.♙b5 c2 59.♙xc2 ♙xc2 60.a6 1-0.

Notes by Edward Porper and Jesse Kraai

□ Kraai, Jesse (2509)

■ Porper, Edward (2445)

4th Edmonton International (5), 19.12.2009

Queen's Gambit Declined, Slav [D12]

1.♙f3 d5 2.d4 c6 3.c4 ♙f6 4.e3 ♙f5 5.♙c3 e6 6.♙h4 ♙g6 7.♙xg6 hxg6 8.♙d2

EP: A less popular alternative to 8.♙e2.

8...♙bd7 9.cxd5

EP: ?! Unassuming. After this move White has no realistic shot at an opening advantage as the whole idea of 4.e3 is to develop the pieces behind the pawn chain and then gain

space by pushing the e-pawn one step further. Now it would only isolate the d-pawn, leaving Black an easy target to advance upon.

JK: The product of months of sweat by me and my silicon pet. White wants to open the position for the Bishops.

9...exd5 10.♙d3 ♙d6 11.h3 ♚e7 12.♞c1

JK: !? Discouraging ...0-0-0

12...g5

EP: ? Winning this game was my last chance to stay in the race for a coveted GM-norm. Even a draw would have left me in dire straits, having to score 100% in the remaining 4 games, one of them against GM Viktor Mikhalevski with Black. So I decided to go all guns blazing against a presumably easier opponent. The natural 12...0-0 13.0-0 ♞ac8 followed by ...♙e4 would have given Black a very promising position.

JK: ?! aka The Panda. GM Josh Friedel thought ...0-0 was more prudent.

13.0-0

JK: ! Action on the wing is met by action in the centre. White intends e4.

13...♙e4



EP: ?? This norm-hunt combined with hanging around the tournament hall between the rounds (instead of taking a sound nap) rendered my brain even softer than it would normally be! 13...g4 would have at least justified the previous move though after 14. e4 dxe4 15.♙xe4 gxh3 16.♞e1, or 15...♙xe4 16.♙xe4 gxh3 17.♞e1 and Black is still in a deep trouble 17...♞h4 18.♙xc6 ♙d8 19.♞e4! Yet, to follow a waste of time with bursting the game open was a blackout to be really "proud" of.

JK: 13...g4 14.e4 dxe4 15.♞e1 0-0-0 16.♙e4. I only saw up to here and thought I would have good play. 16.gxh3 17.♞b3! with the attack.

14.♙xe4 dxe4 15.f3

EP: Of course White is all too happy to oblige.

15...♙f6

JK: ? Better is 15...exf3. My sense is that White is a little better as my centre will unfold with e4 and Black's g5 pawn will regret having advanced.

16.♙xe4 ♙xe4 17.fxe4 ♞xe4 18.♞b3

EP: Not such a difficult move to be overlooked, after a good rest that is.

18...♞e7

EP: After the game my opponent suggested 18...0-0 19.♞xb7 ♞d3 as the last resort, but the attempt fails to 20.♞cd1 ♞ab8 21.♞xa7 ♞xb2 22.♙c1.

JK: 18...0-0 19.♞xb7 ♞d3 (19...♞ab8 20.♞xc6) 20.♞cd1!

19.e4

EP: Now the pawn avalanche is unstoppable.

19...f6 20.e5 fxe5 21.dxe5 ♙c5+ 22.♙h1 0-0-0

EP: The King has nowhere to hide. 22...♙b6 23.♙b4.

23.♞f7 ♞xd2 24.♞xe7

EP: ? Who wouldn't take a free Queen? One who would spot 24.♞xc5! ending the game immediately. As it was, a relatively short agony followed.

JK: ? 24.♞xc5!

24...♙xe7 25.♙d1 ♞xd1+ 26.♞xd1 ♙c7 27.♞d4 a6 28.♞c4

EP: Her Majesty has an ample choice of temporary residences like e6 or f7. The g-pawn is doomed and Black's hopes to build a fortress are gone with the wind.

28...♞h4 29.♞e6 ♙c5 30.♞f7+ ♙b6 31.♞xg7 ♞e4 32.♞xg5 ♙d4 33.♞d2 ♙xe5 34.g4 1-0.

Notes by Marc Esserman

□ **Esserman, Marc (2408)**

■ **MacKinnon, Keith (2125)**

4th Edmonton International (6), 20.12.2009

Scandinavian Defence [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♙f6 3.d4 ♙g4 4.♙f3 ♞xd5

Keith returns to the Scandinavian via the Portuguese Defense move order. However, his Bishop is now committed to g4 whereas in the Scandinavian it can go to f5 or g4 depending on the situation.

5.♙c3 ♞d6

Entering the Bronstein variation, yet with the moves ...♙g4 and ♙f3 thrown in the mix. Normally Black has a chance to play a6 to secure his Queen's position on d6 (stopping ♙b5), but this tempo has already been spent on ...♙g4. White's resulting play attempts to take advantage of this nuance.

6.h3 ♙h5 7.g4

Sending the Bishop on its way and taking the momentum.

7...♙g6 8.♙e5

The principle motive behind this move is to further harass

the Queen by ♔f4.

8...c6

8...a6 is better here. Now Black no longer has time for the thematic ...a6 as ♔f4 and ♔g2 yield White a large advantage. 9.♔f4 ♖d8 10.♔g2±.

9.♔f4 ♖d8

White already has a near decisive advantage. The simple moves h4 or ♔g2 would be fine, but White tries for even more. 9...♖b4? and the Queen's problems are highlighted in the following variation: 10.♔c4 (*threatening a3!*) 10...♔e4 11.a3 anyway! 11...♔xc3 12.axb4 (12.♖d2 ♖a4 13.b3 ♖b5 14.♔d6+ exd6 15.♔xb5 ♔xb5 and White has a Queen for three pieces plus a big lead in development) 12...♔xd1 13.♔b6 and White wins.

10.d5!? ♔xd5

10...cxd5 meets an immediate end after 11.♔b5+ ♔bd7 12.♔xd5 ♖a5+ 13.b4+.

11.♔xd5 ♔e4

Keith finds the most challenging move. If White is not careful now, he will be punished for the ambitious d5. 11...♖xd5 12.♖xd5 cxd5 13.♔b5+ ♔d8 14.0-0-0 e6 15.c4±.



12.♔xf7!

In the spirit of Tal. With two pieces en prise, put another one under attack. As Tal said, "they can only take them one at a time!" 12.♔f6+?! is not sufficient as 12...gxf6 13.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 14.♔xf7+ ♔e8 15.♔xh8 ♔xh1 16.♔c4 ♔d5 and the White Knight will not escape the corner; 12.♔c4?! ♔xd5 stops this fantasy (12...♔xh1 13.♔c7+ ♖xc7 14.♔xf7#); 12.♔xc6!! (*even stronger, and more irrational, than ♔xf7!*) 12...♖xd5 (12...♔xc6 13.♔c7+) 13.♖xd5 ♔xd5 14.♔xb8. The White Knight has now swapped roles with its counterpart! 14...♔xh1 (14...e5 15.♔xe5 ♔xh1 16.♔b5+ ♔e7 17.0-0-0 with a massive attack for the exchange 17...♔f3 18.♖d7+ ♔e6 19.♔g3±) 15.♔b5+ ♔d8 16.0-0-0+ ♔c8 17.♔d7+ ♔d8 18.♔f5+ ♔c8 19.♖xh1+.

12...♖xd5

12...♔xf7 13.♔c7! ♖xd1+ 14.♖xd1 ♔xh1 15.♔xa8±.

13.♖xd5

Black is now presented with a difficult recapture.

13...cxd5!

13...♔xd5 14.♔xh8 ♔xh1 15.♔d3 and with the pawn on c6, not d5, Black cannot play ...♔c4 to seal the Knight's fate. If 15...g6, Black falls one move short; 15...g5!? 16.♔xg5 ♔g7 17.♔g6! again! 17...hxg6 18.♔xg6+ ♔f8 (18...♔d7 19.0-0-0+) 19.0-0-0 threatening mate! 19...♔d5 20.c4+-. 16.♔xg6! hxg6 17.♔xg6+ ♔d7 18.0-0-0+ ♔d5 19.c4+-. White regains all material and the attack remains.

14.♔xh8 ♔xh1

Finally it appears there will be no escape for the Knight.

15.♔xb8!

The key to the combination, trading off White's strong Bishop for Black's inactive Knight. 15.♔d3? ♔e4!; 15.♔b5+!? Ironically it turns out that this move also wins, as in the following variation the trapped h8 Knight participates in the trapping of the h1 Bishop! 15...♔c6 (15...♔d7 16.♔e2 ♔e4 {16...♔g2 17.f3} 17.f3 ♔xc2 18.♖c1+-) 16.♔c2! ♔e4 (16...♔g2 17.♖g1 ♔xh3 18.♖g3) 17.f3! and the Knight eyes the Bishop's retreat to g6! 17...♔xc2 18.♖c1+-.

15...♖xb8 16.♔b5+

The King must give ground, releasing the wayward Knight.

16...♔d8 17.♔f7+ ♔c7 18.♔d3

It is now the Black Bishop that is short of squares.

18...g6 19.♔e2 ♔e4

19...♔g2 20.♖g1 ♔xh3 21.♔g5+.

20.♔xe4 dxe4 21.♔g5

The rest of the game is technical; White has an extra pawn with a superior minor piece and pawn structure.

21...h6 22.♔xe4 ♔g7 23.c3 b5 24.b4 ♔b6 25.a4 a6 26.axb5 axb5 27.♔c5 ♔xc3 28.♖c1 1-0.

Notes by Victor Mikhalevski

□ Mikhalevski, Victor (2607)

■ Porper, Edward (2445)

4th Edmonton International (7), 20.12.2009

Queen's Gambit Declined, Slav [D15]

This is probably my best game in Edmonton.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♔f3 ♔f6 4.♔c3 a6 5.c5 ♔bd7 6.♔f4 ♔h5 7.♔g5

A tricky line. White provokes ...h6. The idea behind the move can be seen in two other games I played in this line.

7...♖c7

Earlier my opponents played the main line 7...h6 8.♔d2 ♔hf6 9.♔f4 ♔h5 10.♔e5 ♔xe5 11.♔xe5 ♔f6 12.c4 e6 (12...♔e6 13.f3 g6 14.♔e2 ♔g7 15.0-0 0-0 16.♖d3 ♖c7

38. ♔xh5+!?+-.

38...h4

38...♖d6!? is a better defence, but White is winning anyway. 39.♖d8! ♗c6 40.♖b7! d3 41.♖b6 ♗c6 42.♖c8+ ♗d5 43.♖g8+ ♗c5 44.♖b3 ♖d4 45.♖b8! ♖c4 46.♖a3+ ♗d5 47.♖d8+ ♗c6 48.♖d6+ ♗f5 49.♖xd3+-.

39.♖b7

The Rook is much better on the b-file from where it has access to the 6th and 8th ranks. 39.♖h7+!? ♗c6 40.♖g8+ ♗d6 41.♖a7+-.

39...♖e8 40.♖h7+ ♗c6 41.♖b6+ ♗d5 42.♖xf6!

Dinner time.

42...e4 43.♖g7

43.♖xa6!+- also wins easily.

43...d3 44.♖xa6!+- ♗b5 45.♖g6

45.♖xg5+ ♖e5 46.♖d8+ ♗c5 47.♖c8+ ♗d4 48.♖e6+-.

45...e3

The last chance.

46.♖xg5+ ♗c6 47.♖c3+

Or 47.♖f6+!? ♗c7 48.♖e5 ♖c6 49.♖e7+ ♗b6 50.♖d4+-.

47...♗b7 48.♖g7+ ♗a6

48...♗d7 49.♖xd3 exf2+ 50.♗xf2 ♖f8+ 51.♖f3+-.

49.♖a3+

49.♖a3+ ♗a4 (if 49... ♗b6, Black gets mated) 50.♖a7+ ♗c6 51.♖c7+ ♗d5 52.♖g5+ ♗e6 (52... ♗e4 53.f3+ ♗d4 54.♖c3#) 53.♖e5+ ♗d7 54.♖g7+ ♗c6 55.♖c7+ ♗b6 56.♖c5+ ♗a5 57.♖a7#) **1-0.**

Notes by Keith MacKinnon

□ MacKinnon, Keith (2125)

■ Kraai, Jesse (2509)

4th Edmonton International (8), 21.12.2009

Alekhine's Defence [B03]

The following game is my first win against a GM. I had been having a bit of a tough time in the tournament, but this game lifted my spirits considerably!

1.e4 ♗f6

This move came as a big surprise. I had expected the French Defense.

2.e5 ♗d5 3.c4 ♗b6 4.d4 d6 5.exd6 exd6 6.♗c3 ♗e7 7.h3

Not allowing the black Bishop to develop itself to its ideal square on g4.

7...0-0 8.♗f3 ♗f5 9.♗e3

9.♗e2 is played far more frequently. 9...♗f6 (9... ♗c6 10.d5 ♗e5 11.♗d4±) 10.♗c3 ♗c6 11.0-0 and the position is pretty level, but White probably has a small edge.

9...♗c6 10.♖c1

I think 10.d5 right away would have been stronger.

10...♖e8 11.d5 ♗b4

During the game, I thought that this move was an inaccuracy, but it turns out to be Black's best move. 11...♗h4!? is a interesting try, but after 12.♖d2 ♗e5 13.♗xe5 ♖xe5 14.♗e2 White is still a tiny bit better.

12.♗d4?!

It was more important to develop my light squared Bishop and castle quickly.

12...♗g6

12...♗d7+ with the idea of a quick ...♗g5.

13.♗e2 c5

This seems overambitious to me.

14.dxc6 ♗xc6

14...bxc6 15.a3 c5 16.axb4 cxd4 17.♖xd4±.

15.0-0 ♗f6 16.♖e1?

I was not being careful enough here. Jesse quickly sacked the exchange on e3, but he missed a stronger move which would have guaranteed him a good game. I should have played 16.♗db5 ♖e6 (16... ♗e5 17.f4±) 17.♖d2± and White will build up pressure against Black's weak d6 pawn.

16...♖xe3?!

16...♗xc4! was the move that he missed. 17.♗xc4 ♗xd4 and I can't take back on d4 due to ...♖xe1+, 18.♖d2 ♗f5 19.♗f4∞, Black is a pawn up, but White's pieces are active and I can play against Black's isolated pawn.

17.fxe3 ♗h4 18.♗xc6

18.♖f1 ♗g5 19.♖d2 ♖e7 20.♗d1. The computer likes this for White, but it seems very passive to me.

18...bxc6 19.♖f1 ♗g5 20.♖f3 ♖e7 21.♖d4 ♗d7

Played quickly, but it is most likely a mistake. 21...♖e8 22.♖d1 ♗c2 is Black's best option. If he tries to play for more than the draw, he could quickly end up in trouble. 23.♖c1 ♗g6 24.♖d1=.

22.♖d1 ♗e5 23.♖xd6

Rybka likes the idea of keeping material with 23.♖f2. It is probably best to keep the Rook.

23...♗xf3+ 24.♗xf3 ♖xe3+ 25.♗h1 h6!

This is actually the best move even though it looks a bit strange. Black needs to make an escape square for his King before he can start really doing anything.

26.♖xc6 ♖b8 27.c5

Not the best. It gives Black a draw if he wants one.



Keith MacKinnon vs. GM Jesse Kraai

27.♟d5 first was better, with the idea of b4.

27...♙c2



27...♞xb2 28.♟d5∞. After the tournament, GM Mikhalievski was looking at this position, and he came to the conclusion that White should be better due to the great Knight on d5.

28.♞f1 ♙d3 29.♞d1 ♙c2 30.♞f1 ♞xb2?

He should have taken the draw by repeating moves.

31.♟d1!

I found this move in mild time trouble and was about 95% sure that I was won.

31...♙xd1

31...♞c1 puts up the most resistance 32.♞e8+ ♟h7 33.h4! +-. Black can't take on h4 because of ♙c4+, and after ...♙f4, the White Queen simply takes f7; 31...♞d3 32.♞e8+ ♟h7 33.♙c2 game over (33.♙e4+ ♞xe4 34.♞xe4+ ♙xe4 35.♟xb2+-).

32.♞c8+

32.♞a8+ ♟h7 33.♙c4+ f5 34.♞xf5+- is another way to win, but the win I found is more aesthetically pleasing.

32...♟h7 33.♞f5+ ♟g8 34.♙e4!!

Of course! The draw by repetition was there for the taking with ♞c8 and back to f5, but this move just wins. I am now threatening ♞c8# and ♞xf7+, followed by ♞f8#. Black can't defend against all of the threats.

34...f6 35.♞c8+ ♟f7 36.♞d7+ ♟f8 37.♙g6 1-0.

Mate is unstoppable. It wasn't a great game by me as I made some mistakes in the middle-game, but my opponent's oversight on the 30th move gave me the opportunity to find the forced win.

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The World Champions in Canada: Lasker (2) and Capablanca

By Stephen Wright

When Emanuel Lasker made his final trip to Canada in 1926, almost twenty years had passed since his previous visit. Much had changed in the chess world: a new generation of players had arisen and the tenets of the new hypermodern movement were taking hold. More importantly from a personal point of view, Lasker was no longer world champion. He had tried to resign the title to Capablanca in 1920, but the chess community required a formal contest. This duly took place the following year, with Lasker losing a serious match for the first and only time in his life.



Most felt that the ex-champion's career was largely over, but Lasker, now in his mid-fifties, had other ideas. He won strong events at Moravska Ostrava 1923 and New York 1924, and finished second at Moscow 1925 behind Bogoljubow. In the latter part of 1926 he produced the German version of what became *Lasker's Manual of Chess*, but from late January to April he toured America extensively. One of the last stops on the tour brought Lasker back to Canada, this time to Toronto.

In Toronto Lasker gave a single simultaneous exhibition on thirty-one boards, scoring +25 =5 -1. Eight game scores have come down to us from the event, and in those games Lasker (playing white in all cases) opened with either 1.d4, 1.c4, or 1.♘f3. The Toronto players responded with king-side fianchetti six times, leading to a Pirc, what we now know as a Barry Attack, and four King's Indians. One would guess the Torontonians had specifically prepared for the ex-world champion, but given that Lasker was predominantly an 1.e4 player, this seems unlikely. Instead, these games indicate the growing popularity of the hypermodern school. The King's Indian Defence (usually designated as either "QP Game" or "Irregular" in contemporary sources) had been known for some time, but only achieved a degree of currency after the First World War in the hands of masters such as Euwe, Réti and Yates. Few Canadian games

are extant from that period, but we are fortunate that nearly all the games from the 1924 Canadian Championship in Hamilton were published in *Le Pion*; from these we can see that the King's Indian was played in roughly a quarter of the games that began 1.d4.

A common response to the King's Indian at the time was the London System with ♘f4, so named following its employment by Capablanca and others at London 1922. Indeed, this is what Lasker had played on the two previous occasions he had faced the opening, against Euwe at Moravska Ostrava 1923 and Alekhine at New York 1924. (*The Euwe game had gone 1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♘f4 ♘g7 4.♖c1, with Lasker winning in spite of the opening*). Yet when Lasker faced the King's Indian in Toronto he replied with the Four Pawns Attack in all four games. There was the example of Alekhine, who had played the variation three times as white at New York 1924, but in Lasker's case this was likely his way of enlivening the simultaneous games, as he had previously done with the King's Gambit.

Notes by Stephen Wright

□ Lasker, Emanuel

■ Creemer, Dave

Toronto Simul, 21.04.1926

King's Indian Defence, Four Pawns Attack [E76]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 b6

Black need not be so cautious; it has since been shown that c7-c5 is playable, either now or after 5...0-0.

6.♘f3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♘d3 exd5 9.cxd5 ♘b7

This pawn structure was largely unknown at the time, so both players have to rely on their own resources. The Bishop is misplaced on b7; better is 9...♘g4.

10.0-0 0-0 11.f5

Striking before Black can complete his development, but premature.

11...gxf5 12.♘g5 c4

An unnecessary pawn sacrifice; after 12...h6 13.♘h4 Black stands well (White's Knight has trouble reaching f5).

13.♘xc4 ♖c7 14.♘d3 fxe4 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♘xe4 ♖c5+ 17.♔h1

(see next diagram)

17...♘xb2

Black should instead win the d-pawn with 17...f5.

18.♘h6

18.♘h4 leaves Black's King in deep trouble.

18...♘d7 19.♖b1 ♘g7 20.♖d2

The straightforward 20.♘g7 ♖xg7 21.♘g5 is good for White.



20...Qc3 21.Qxc3 Qxc3 22.Qxf8 Rxf8

The smoke has cleared: Black is down the exchange for a pawn but has the two bishops and a strong square on c5 for his Knight.

23.Rfc1 Qg7 24.Rc7 Qc5 25.Rc1 Qa8 26.Qb1 a6



27.Qg5 Qh6

Black is inveigled into some tactics but plays several consecutive weak moves and ends up shedding a pawn. The simple 27...h6 was sufficient.

28.h4 f6

Black should have played 28...Qxf6, either now or on the next move.

29.Rxh7 Qg7 30.Qe6 Rf7 31.Qxg7 Rxf7 32.Rxg7+ Qxg7 33.Rd1 Qh6 34.Qh2 Qd7 35.Qf5 Qe5 36.Qe6 a5 37.Rc1 Qb7 38.Rc7 Qa6 39.Qf5 Qg6 40.g3 Qe2 41.Rf7 1-0.

Notes by Malcolm Sim with those by Stephen Wright in parentheses noted by SW

□ Lasker, Emanuel

■ Fox, Maurice

Toronto Simul, 21.04.1926

King's Indian Defence, Four Pawns Attack [E76]

[Maurice Fox lived for a short time in Toronto before moving to Montréal and subsequently winning the Canadian championship eight times – SW]

1.c4 d6 2.d4 Qf6 3.Qc3 g6 4.e4 Qg7 5.f4 0-0 6.Qf3

6.Qe2 is considered best.

6...Qbd7

White is considered to get the best of it against anything but 6...Qg4. [Emanuel's distant relative Edward Lasker played an immediate 6...e5 against Alekhine at New York 1924 and eventually drew after a sharp struggle – SW]

7.Qe2 e5

This leads to the loss of the exchange, though Fox nets something in the way of pawns. The precautionary 7...h6 might be suggested.

8.fxe5 dxe5 9.dxe5 Qg4 10.Qg5 Qe8 11.Qd5 Qxe5



12.Qe7

There is a good pitfall here: if 12.Qxc7 then 12...Qxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Qc5 14.Qxa8 Qxg5 15.Qc7 Qa5+ winning the Knight [except White has the stronger 15.Qd2 – SW].

12...Qxf3+ 13.gxf3

[The stem game saw 13.Qxf3 c6 14.Qxf8 Qxf8 15.Qc3 Qc5 16.Qb3 Qe5 17.0-0-0 Qxc4 18.Rd8+ Qf8 19.Rhd1 Qe6 20.Rxa8 Qg5+ 21.Qb1 Qd2+ 22.Rxd2 Qxb3 23.Rdd8 Qc4 24.Rxf8+ Qg7 25.Rfd8 and White won in English–Tarrasch (!), Hamburg 1885 (!) – SW]

13...Qxb2 14.Rb1 Qc3+ 15.Qf2 c6 16.Qxf8 cxd5 17.Qh6 dxe4 18.Rb3



18...♙f6

The alternative 18...♞e5 was less hazardous. Black's continuation leaves the Bishop in the air.

19.♞e3 ♗h4+ 20.♔g2 ♘f6 21.♞d4 ♙f5 22.♞d1 ♞c6 23.fxe4 ♙xe4+ 24.♙f3 ♙xf3+ 25.♞xf3 ♞e8

The saving clause: if 26.♞xh4 then 26...♞e2+ is decisive.

26.♞d2 ♞e4 27.♞d8+ ♞e8 28.♞d4 ♞e4 29.♞d8+ ♞e8 30.♞d6 ♞xc4

This capture costs a piece.

31.♞f4 ♘e4

If 31...♞c2+, then 32.♔f3.

32.♞d7 ♞e6 33.♞xe6 ♞xe6 34.♞c2 1-0.

Notes by Malcolm Sim

□ **Lasker, Emanuel**

■ **Morrison, John S [E76]**

Toronto Simul, 21.04.1926

King's Indian Defence, Four Pawns Attack [E76]

[Five-time Canadian champion John Morrison, a participant in the London 1922 tournament, was the reigning title holder in 1926 – SW]

1.c4 ♘f6 2.d4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.♘f3 ♘bd7 6...Bg4 is best here.

7.♙e2 ♞e8 8.e5

A powerful advance.

8...♘g4 9.e6 ♘df6 10.exf7+

To be considered was 10.♘g5 ♘h6 11.d5.

10...♔xf7 11.h3 ♘h6 12.g4 ♘hg8 13.♘g5+ ♔f8 14.♞d3 e6 15.♙d2 ♘e7 16.0-0-0 ♘c6 17.h4 e5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.d5 ♘d4 20.♞df1 ♔g8 21.h5 ♘xe2+ 22.♘xe2 e4 23.♞e3 ♙xg4 24.hxg6 hxg6 25.♘f4 ♙f5 26.♙c3 ♘g4

It appears very risky to allow the Queen to play to h3. 26...b5 presents opportunities for counter-attack.

27.♞h3 ♙h6

Black dare not accept the proffered Knight.

28.♘ge6

**28...♞xe6**

If 28...♞e7, then 29.♙g7 ♙xe6 instead would court disaster.

29.dxe6 ♞g5 30.♔b1 e3+ 31.♔a1 ♞d8 32.♘d5 e2 33.♞e1 33.♞fg1 c6 34.♞xg4 ♙xg4 35.♞xg4 e1/♞+ 36.♞xe1 ♞xg4 and White should win.

33...♞xd5 34.cxd5 ♘e3 35.♞xh6 ♘c2+

Drawn by perpetual check.



Morrison was a little hasty in taking the draw. He afterwards pointed out he could soon have reached a winning ending, i.e., 36.♔b1 ♘xe1+ 37.♔a1 ♘c2+ 38.♔b1 e1/♞+ 39.♙xe1 ♞xh6 40.♞xh6 ♘xe1+, etc. ½-½.

Notes by Stephen Wright

□ **Lasker, Emanuel**

■ **Steinberg, Boris**

Toronto Simul, 21.04.1926

King's Indian Defence, Four Pawns Attack [E76]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.♘f3 ♘bd7 7.♙e2 ♞e8

Preparing 8...c5, but White prevents it with his next.

8.e5 ♘g4 9.e6 fxe6

Varying from the Morrison game, but after this inferior move Black is forced to part with a piece.

10.♘g5 ♘df6 11.♙xg4 ♘xg4 12.♞xg4 e5 13.♞h4

The paradoxical self-pin 13.♘e6 is best.

13...h6 14.♘f3

An alternative is 14. fxe5 hxg5 13.♙xg5, returning the piece for a positional advantage.

14...exd4 15.♘e2 c5 16.0-0 ♙f5 17.♞e1

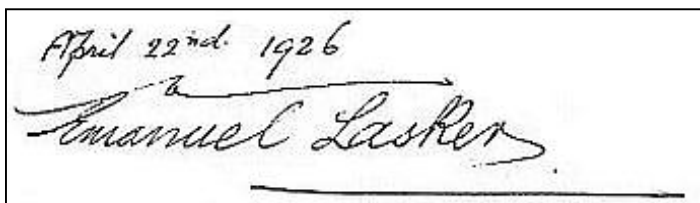
Too slow, allowing Black to consolidate; 17.♘g3 was called for.

17...e5 18.♞xd8 ♞axd8 19.♘g3 e4 20.♘h4 d5 21.♘hxf5 gxf5 22.♘xf5 dxc4 23.♘xg7 ♔xg7



White still has a nominal material advantage, but is unable to deal with Black's armada of centre pawns.

24.♔f2 b5 25.♖b1 b4 26.g4 a5 27.h4 ♜d5 28.h5 c3
29.bxc3 bxc3 30.♖b7+ ♔g8 31.f5 e3+ 32.♔f3 d3 33.f6
♜f8 34.♙xe3 ♜xf6+ 35.♙f4 d2 36.♜e8+ ♜f8 37.♜xf8+
♔xf8 38.♙xh6+ ♔e8 39.♖b1 d1♖+ 0-1.



Lasker's signature, from a Toronto Chess Club guest book, courtesy of Erik Malmsten

Capablanca

Arguably the greatest natural player in the history of the game, José Raúl Capablanca (1888-1942) visited Canada four times at the beginning of his professional career, thrice in 1909 and once more in 1912. The Cuban had come to the U.S. for schooling and enrolled in engineering at Columbia University, but during this time he also played many games at the Manhattan Chess Club against the likes of Emanuel Lasker. Capablanca did not find his studies appealing, and by November 1908 he had left the university. An interested observer was Hermann Helms, co-founder and editor of the *American Chess Bulletin*. To promote his magazine he offered to organize a tour for Capablanca, which duly took place 12 January – 2 March 1909 and encompassed thirty-one displays in twenty-seven cities, including Toronto.



All contemporary sources comment on Capablanca's ability to penetrate to the heart of even the most complex positions at a glance. He also had a reputation for near invincibility: in his entire tournament career the Cuban lost only thirty-four games, including no losses in the period 1916-1924. These two traits coalesced in Capablanca's simultaneous exhibitions, the most remarkable of which occurred in Cleveland on February 4, 1922. Despite not having been involved in any chess activities since winning the world championship nine months earlier, Capablanca played 103 opponents simultaneously, scoring +102 =1. Even as a young man Capablanca's tour percentages were considerably higher than those of other masters: on his first tour mentioned above the future world champion's total results were +571 =18 -13, or 96.3%. This included a string of 132 consecutive wins at the beginning of the tour before finally giving up a draw in Cleveland on January 20, 1909. Unfortunately for the Toronto players, their display took place the day before – they lost all twenty-three games to the young Cuban. These results no doubt pleased Helms, as each victor over Capablanca received a six-month subscription to the *American Chess Bulletin*.

In the spring of 1909, Capablanca considerably enhanced his growing reputation by decisively defeating Frank Marshall in a match (+8 =14 -1); the following week Capablanca was in Montréal and gave two displays, scoring +12 =3 -0 and +15 =2 -0. Five months later he made his third trip to Canada, beginning his second formal American tour on November 17 in Montréal. On this occasion Capablanca took on twenty-four players and gave up two draws. Newspaper coverage of Capablanca's 1909 Canadian visits was scant and no games seem to have been published (he was largely unknown at the time), but his last Montréal appearance did elicit a short interview and a few extra words about the display in the press:

"Two or three times Capablanca was hard pressed last night, but managed to win out. Early in the evening Dr. W. Winfret worked a knight into a strong position, threatening the black queen. It took the Cuban nearly two minutes to solve the situation. He pursed his lips, scratched his head (a favourite gesture), and tapped his foot, looking worried. Then he moved a knight, and the doctor had lost his game, though he put up a stiff fight." Montréal Daily Herald, 18 November 1909.

The same *Daily Herald* report gave the score of Capablanca's previous Westmount display in June as +22 =1 -1, which contradicts every other source and is presumably erroneous.

Capablanca visited Canada for the last time as part of his fourth American tour, appearing in Winnipeg on 14-15

May 1912. By this point he was regarded as an ascending star, having won the strong tournament at San Sebastian in 1911 (Pillsbury was the only other person in history to have won a major event at the first attempt, at Hastings 1895). While in Winnipeg, Capablanca gave a twenty-board simultaneous exhibition each evening, winning all the games. According to the *Manitoba Free Press*, "Mr. Capablanca only lost one game during his stay in Winnipeg. Wednesday afternoon, while playing against Major Carey, he lost out." Given that the formal simultaneous displays were held in the evening, this must have been an offhand game, presumably at odds. In any event, allowing for the *Daily Herald* report cited above, this appears to be the only game Capablanca ever lost in Canada; his overall score for simultaneous games was +88 =5 -0.

None of the games were published in the Winnipeg press; normally the games that survive from a simultaneous display are losses or draws by the exhibitor, but Capablanca allowed precious few examples. However, we do have one game and two positions from the Winnipeg displays, courtesy of the *Capablanca-Magazine*, a Spanish-language chess journal which ran 1912-1914. The Winnipeg examples are reproduced in Edward Winter's book *Capablanca*.

Notes by Capablanca, translated by Edward Winter

□ **Capablanca, José R**

■ **Spencer, R.J.**

Winnipeg Simul, 15.05.1912

Four Knights Opening [C49]

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♘c6 3.♟c3 ♟f6 4.♟b5 ♟b4 5.0-0 0-0 6.d3 d6 7.♟g5 ♟xc3 8.bxc3 ♟e7

Nowadays 8...♟c7 is more fashionable.

9.♟h4 ♟h8

This defence does not seem good to me.

10.f4 exf4 11.♟xf6 gxf6



12.♟h5

Much better than 12.♟xf4.

12...♟g6 13.♟f5 ♟g8 14.d4

A necessary move in order to be able to bring the Bishop to d3.

14...♟e6 15.♟f3

White threatens mate in 16: 16.♟xh7+ ♔xh7 17.♟h3+ ♟h4 18.♟xh4+ ♟g6 19.♟h6+ ♟g5 20.h4+ ♟g4 21.♟c3+ fxc3 (21... ♟g3 22.♟f1+ ♟g4 23.♟h2+ ♟g3 24.♟f1 ♟c4 25.♟f2 ♟e2 26.♟xe2 ...any 27.♟f3#) 22.♟f1



22...♟c4 23.♟xc4 d5 24.♟e2+ ♟g3 25.♟f3+ ♟g4 26.♟h2 ♟d6+ 27.♟g3+ ♟f4 28.♟xf6+ ♟xf6 29.♟f3+ ♟g4 30.♟f5+ ♟xh4 31.♟h5#. Three leading Cuban players, Juan Corzo, Rafael Blanco and René Portela, suggested the following variation from the diagram "which prolongs resistance and would end in mate if Black played weakly: 22...f5 23.♟e2+ ♟g3 24.♟f3+ ♟g4 25.♟xf5+ ♟g3 26.♟f3+ ♟g4 27.g3! ♟h3 28.♟f1+ ♟g4 29.♟g2 ♟xh4 30.♟e2 ♟xg3+? 31.♟xg3+ ♟f4 32.♟h4+ ♟g4 33.♟xg4+ ♟xg4+ 34.♟xg4#."

15...♟f8 16.♟xf4 ♟g5 17.♟h6 d5 18.♟d3 c5 19.exd5 ♟xd5 20.♟e3 ♟g6 21.♟af1 ♟f8

This loses at once, but there was no way to save the game. If 21...c4, 22.♟xd5 would win easily.

22.♟xf8+ ♟xf8 23.♟xg6 hxg6 24.h4



And Black resigned a few moves later.

□ Capablanca, José R
 ■ Wildman, J.E.A.
 Winnipeg Simul, 14.05.1912



1. ♖xe6+ ♗xe6 2. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 3. ♖xe6+ ♖f7 4. ♖xh6 1-0.

□ Capablanca, José R
 ■ Amateur
 Winnipeg Simul, 15.05.1912



1. ♖e6+ ♗c8 2. ♖a6+ ♖b7 3. ♖xf8 ♗b5 4. ♖e6+ ♗b8
 5. ♖ed2 ♖e8 6. ♖d7+ ♗a8 7. ♖xc5 ♖c7 8. ♖xe7 1-0.

A file of relevant games may be found at the [B.C. Chess History](#) website.

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Myron Samsin in the preparation of this article.

Attention CFC Members!

Notify the CFC if you have changed your email address!

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March 19 – 25, 2010
 Holiday Inn - Skokie, IL

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 (Women): \$1000 - 600 - 400 - 200
 (1799 - 1600): \$1000 - 600 - 400 - 200
 (1599 - 1400): \$1000 - 600 - 400 - 200
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 Top Female Player – Woman's FIDE Master Title

Hotel: Holiday Inn - \$99/night, 2 person occupancy, hot breakfast included.
 Mention North American Chess.

Entry Fee: \$120 until February 15; \$150 until March 15; \$200 thereafter and at door

Round Times: 3/19 – 6:30pm; 3/20 - 3/21 – 12pm and 6:30pm; 3/22-25 – 6:30pm

Visit the tournament website for more information on this event including:

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- ▶ How to get free entry to this event
- ▶ Additional prizes and potential prize fund upgrades
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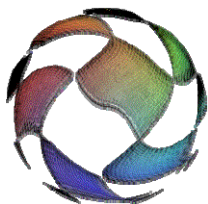
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Chess Globe

Corus Chess 2010

The 72nd Corus Chess tournament runs from January 15-31 in Wijk aan Zee. The tournament is split into 3 groups of 14 players (GM-A, GM-B, GM-C). This year the A group is a category 19. Top ranked Magnus Carlsen heads the group in rating, but so far the star of the event is Alexi Shirov. After 8 rounds, Alexi leads by half a point with 6.



Shirov vs. Short ends in peace

Alexi won his first 5 games, finally giving up a draw to Nigel Short in round 6. Had Alexi won round 6 he would have tied the tournament record for consecutive wins held by Victor Korchnoi. He showed he was human in round 7, losing to Nakamura. Today he managed a draw against Magnus Carlsen. Both Carlsen and Kramnik are within easy striking distance, sitting half a point back at 5½. It seems current world champion Vishi Anand can't win or lose, drawing all his games so far.

The B section is also strong and ranks as a category 16 with FIDE. Youth is the story here as 15 year old Anish Giri of the Netherlands, ranked 12th in the group, leads with 6½. His nearest rival, China's Hua Ni sits a full 1½ back with 5.

Section C is also producing some surprises. Another 15 year old leads as US GM Ray Robson stands alone in 1st with 6. Li Chao of China and Abhijeet Gupta are half a point back at 5½.

Website: <http://www.coruschess.com/index.php>

2010 Canadian Open in Toronto

The CFC governors have accepted a bid by a group from Toronto to host the Canadian Open this summer. The tournament will take place from July 10-18 at the luxurious Westin Harbour Castle. The organizing committee consists of Michael Barron, Ted Winick and Brian Fiedler at this point. The format will remain a 9 round swiss in one section. MonRoi will provide live coverage during the event.

Details at www.chess.ca/misc2009/2010CANOP.pdf.

FIDE World Blitz Championship Internet Tournament

Moscow will host this event on February 18. Chessbase and Aeroflot are the major sponsors. Six preliminary tournaments will qualify 10 players each to the finals. All the preliminary tournaments, as well as the finals are played on the internet at playchess.com. The qualifying tournaments are open to everyone on the planet at no cost and you can play in all of them. The preliminaries run from January 19-28. The finals take place on January 30. The top 3 finishers of the finals qualify to the World Blitz Championship Qualifier in Moscow on February 18, all expenses paid. This tournament will be a double 9-round Swiss Blitz and will have a prize fund of €40,000. Six winners will qualify to The World Blitz Championship which is scheduled for November 2010. Full details available at www.viewchess.com/fritzserver/FIDEBlitz2010/

Haitian Relief

Sometimes you have to stop for a minute and think about what is really important. The tragedy in Haiti is beyond belief, but it is real. On January 12, a major earthquake shook Haiti and left a trail of death and devastation. It is estimated that at least three million people have been affected by this disaster. Relief is pouring in from around the world but it won't stop the death of thousands upon thousands at the hands of mother nature. Hospitals lie in ruins while injury and disease will take the lives of thousands more. If you have the means to make a donation to the relief effort, please do. Donations can be made at the Canadian Red Cross. Phone 1-800-418-1111, online at www.redcross.ca/helpnow or text "REDCROSS" to 30333 to make a one time donation of \$5. You can also drop a cheque off at any Red Cross location. Cheques should be earmarked Haiti Earthquake.

Attention CFC Members!

Notify the CFC if you have changed your email address!

Send your new address to info@chess.ca



Across Canada



British Columbia

BC Active 2010

January 9-10

Vicente Lee Jr. won the prestigious BC Active Championship for a second year in a row, good for \$300. He finished clear first with 8 points out of 9, followed by Dan Scoones and Mayo Fuentesballea with 7 points. Fourth was Roman Jiganchine. 27 players participated with \$810 in prizes total. Toni Deline was the tournament director. The event was held in Vancouver.

I was the organizer of the event and also a player. I came close to beating the BC Champion in round 7, but fell short. The game was an exciting one and had spectators on their toes until the last move!

□ Poitras, Luc

■ Lee Jr., Vicente

2010 BC Active Championship, 10.01.2010

Sicilian Sozin Defence [B88]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙b3 ♙e7 8.0-0 ♘c6 9.♙e3 0-0 10.♙f3 ♙c7 11.♙g3 b5 12.a3 ♘xd4 13.♙xd4 ♙b7 14.f3 ♙c6 15.♙ad1 ♙fd8 16.♙d2 a5 17.♙fd1 ♘e8 18.♘h1 b4 19.♙a4 ♙c8 20.♙xe8 e5 21.♙xe5 dxe5 22.♙xd8 ♙xd8 23.♙d7 ♙c5 24.♘d5 ♙xc2 25.♙e3 ♙e2 26.♙e1 ♙xb2 27.axb4 a4 28.♘f5 ♙f6 29.♘d6 a3 30.♙e8 ♙xb4 31.♙xf7+ ♘f8 32.♙d1 a2 33.♙xa2 ♙xa2 34.h4 ♙a6 35.♘f5 ♙c8 36.♘g7 ♙d6 37.♙xd6 ♙xd6 38.♘f5 ♙xf5 39.exf5 ♙d4 40.h5 ♙e3 41.♙g4 ♙e1+ 42.♘h2 ♙h4+ 43.♙xh4 ♙xh4 44.g3 ♙g5 45.g4 h6 46.♘g2 ♘e7 47.♘f2 ♘d6 48.♘e2 ♘c5 49.♘d3 ♘d5 50.♘c3 e4 51.fxe4+ ♘xe4 52.f6 ♙xf6+ 53.♘d2 ♘f3 54.♘e1 ♙d4 55.♘f1 ♙f2 56.g5 hxg5 57.h6 g4 58.h7 g3 0-1.

TD: Toni Deline Organizer: Luc Poitras

Report: <http://wcjc.blogspot.com/>

2009 in BC Chess

The end of the year is often a time for reflection and a review of the events that occurred in the previous twelve months. With this in mind, here is a list of BC tournament winners for 2009, along with a few other highlights:

BC Active Championship: Vicente Lee Jr.

New Year Open: Tanraj Sohal and Dragoljub Milicevic

Grand Pacific Open: Leon Piasetski, Lawrence Day, Vicente Lee Jr., Valeriya Gansvind

Keres Memorial: Jack Yoos

World Open: second IM norm for Bindi Cheng

BC Open: Eric Hansen

Labour Day Open: Sean McLaren and Daniel E. Salcedo

Torekves RR, Budapest: Michael Yip

NAYCC: gold medal for Janak Awatramani

BC Championship: Jack Yoos

UBC Thanksgiving Open: Pavel Trochtchanovitch

Halloween Open: Yiming Han

BC Junior Championship: Janak Awatramani

Jack Taylor Memorial: Howard Wu

December Open: Tanraj Sohal

Source: *BCCF Bulletin #181*

Alberta

2010 Schleinich Memorial

January 8-10

Each year the Schleinich Memorial is held to honour the late Walter Schleinich who was a prominent chess organizer in Alberta in the 70s and 80s. I never had the opportunity to meet him, but I have read enough history about him to know that he was a dedicated organizer in Alberta for years.

The Schleinich is run as a six player sectional round robin. This year we could only put together two full sections for a total of twelve players. The attendance was low because it was advertised very late. Another factor might have been the proximity of this tournament to the University Battle of Alberta which was played on the following weekend.



Schleinich Section B winner Adie Todd

Section A was CFC and FIDE rated. Brad Willis of Edmonton and Thomas Kaminski of Calgary split top honours with 4/5. Brad won their individual encounter so is the true winner of the section, going undefeated throughout. Calgary's Artur Wojtas finished 3rd, putting in a strong performance.

Section B was hotly contested. Adie Todd of Calgary played impressive chess to capture clear 1st with 4.5/5, giving up only half a point to 2nd place finisher, me! I finished with 3.5/5. Phil Holmstrom of Edmonton and Chris Kuczaj of Calgary split 3rd and 4th at 2.5/5.

TD & Report: *Tony Ficzer*

University Battle of Alberta

January 16-17

The Calgary Chess Club hosted a very successful battle this year. Simon Ong organized and directed and as usual, the tournament hall was nicely decorated for the players. University teams registered from the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge. The community teams were from the Calgary Chess Club, Calgary Junior Chess Club and the Edmonton Chess Club. This was a new idea for 2010, introduced by Simon. The formula seemed to work as there were 47 players this time out, compared to 35 last year.

The format was one large Swiss system. I believe the first two rounds were run using accelerated pairings. Time control was game in 90 minutes plus a 30 second increment.

Individual winners were as follows:

1st: Dan Kazmaier, 4.5/5

2nd: Aaron Sequillion, 4/5

FM Vladimir Pechenkin, 4/5

Avelino Angelo Tolentino, 4/5

Best performance by a player on a community team went to Roy Yearwood with 3.5/5. Avelino would have won this prize, but players are only allowed to win one prize. Roy donated his winnings to the prize fund for next year's University Battle of Alberta.

Top U1700: Adie Todd and Chris Kuczaj, 3.5/5

1st Unrated: Nicholas Sebaleng, 3/5

2nd Unrated: Shishir Shivare, 2.5/5

3rd Unrated: Nick Todd, 2/5

Best Junior: Yoekai Wang who also scored 4/5, losing to Dan Kazmaier in the last round.

Top U1000 Junior: Patrick Angelo Tolentino (aka Alberta Grade 1 champion), 1.5/5

Top team overall went to the Calgary Chess Club, while the top University team prize went to the University of Alberta

TD & Organizer: *Simon Ong* Report: *Tony Ficzer*

Internet Match: Calgary Chess Club vs. Brantford Chess Club

January 23

The two clubs had been planning an internet match for months. The match took place on 4 boards with an average rating between 1670-1680. Play took place on FICS (Free Internet Chess Server). Captain Rob Gashgarian (gashman) put together the crew from Brantford, while I, Captain Tony Ficzer (fritzer) assembled the Calgary team. There were absolutely no technical problems for the entire match, a relief as this was our biggest concern. Most of us were not all that familiar with the FICS interface that we used (Babaschess), but it worked perfectly.

Brantford won the first half of the match 3-1. Rob defeated me on board one. I came out of the opening OK, but around move 20, a thought crept through my mind. For some reason, I pictured Rob playing in his underwear (totally possible). This undoubtedly had an affect on my play and I blundered on the very next move.

On board two, Calgary's Bob Macfie went down in flames against Lee Hendon. Bob's position in the late opening/early middle game looked quite good, but Bob fell apart for some unknown reason, giving up a pawn, and eventually the game.

Board three was won by Brantford junior, Adam Cormier. Adam defeated Tom McKay handily.

Board four had Calgary's only victory of the match when Nicholas Sebaleng easily out-matched Tyler Ensor. The rest of the Calgary team was very happy that Nicholas showed up!

Tyler was quick to point out that he was sharpening his knife for the rematch. I quickly pointed out that you shouldn't bring a knife to a gun fight. Then, when Brantford's board 3 won (Adam Cormier), they were quick to point out that you shouldn't bring a gun to a tank fight! Good point.

The match will be CFC rated. At stake is \$5,000 in Monopoly money. The losing team must send the cash (in the mail) to the winning team. The second half of the match will take place in late February. Calgary must score at least 3 wins to pull even. The rules for tie breaks have not been worked out yet.

I know all of us in Calgary enjoyed the match and look forward to the 2nd half. We've already received an email by another club looking to get into the action. I'm surprised more internet events like this haven't taken place. Calgary will certainly be doing this more often.

Report: *Tony Ficzer*

Ontario

Hart House Holidays Open

December 18-20

Here are the winners:

Open

1st: IM Nikolay Noritsyn, 4.5

2nd-3rd: IM Leonid Gerzhoy and Andrei Moffat, 4.0

Top U2300 prize: Wajdy Shebetah and Nikita Gusev

U1800

1st: Jim Zhao 4.5

2nd-3rd: Richard Yam, Mike Ivanov and Travis Li, 4.0

U1500

1st: Andrian Botescu, 5.0

2nd: Qiang Li, 4.0

3rd: James Denis and Dylan Martin, 3.5

Top Unrated: Miles Duggal

The Team Competition was a share of YoYos (Yelizaveta Orlova, Alexander Martchenko, Arthur Calugar and Dalia Kagramanov) and ARBYS (Artiom Samsonkin, Richard Yam, Roman Sapozhnikov & Robert Bzikot).

Egidijus Zeromskis



Nikolay Noritsyn (left) being congratulated by Alex Ferreira

When asked about the tournament, Nikolay told us that it was an easy one. This last round game shows how with simple moves, White wins. Of course, you must be a master to find the “simple” moves!

Notes by Egidijus Zeromskis

□ Noritsyn, Nikolay (2532)

■ Szalay, Karoly (2346)

Hart House Holiday Open, Toronto, (5.1), 20.12.2009

Catalan [E01]

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.♘g2 ♟f6 4.♟f3 ♘d6 5.0-0 c6 6.d4 ♟bd7 7.♟c3 0-0 8.♞c2 ♞e7 9.b3 b6 10.e4 dxe4 11.♟xe4 ♟xe4 12.♞xe4 ♘b7 13.♞e1 ♞ae8 14.♘b2 ♘a8 15.♞ad1 e5?

Premature. An alternative was 15...♟f6 with Rooks re-

grouping to c8-d8 or d8-e8.

16.dxe5 c5 17.♞b1 ♘b8

Black does not sense the coming disaster. ♟17...♘c7.

18.♞xd7!! ♞xd7 19.♟g5

Threatening to mate on h7 and to take a Bishop on a8.

19...g6 20.♘xa8 ♞d8 21.♟f3 ♞e7 22.♘d5 ♞fe8 23.h4 ♞d7 24.♞e4

White has a material advantage and a dominating position. 1-0.

Again the last round game with all tension and willingness to win.

Notes by Egidijus Zeromskis

□ Samsonkin, Artiom (2614)

■ Gerzhoy, Leonid (2572)

Hart House Holiday Open Toronto (5.2), 20.12.2009

Sicilian Taimanov [B47]

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.♟c3 ♟c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♟xd4 ♞c7 6.♟db5 ♞b8 7.♘e3 ♟f6 8.♘d3 a6 9.♟d4 ♘e7 10.0-0 0-0 11.♟h1 d5 12.f4 dxe4 13.♟xe4 ♟d5 14.♟xc6 bxc6 15.♘c1 f5 16.♟g3 ♘d6 17.♟e2 c5 18.c4 ♟f6 19.b3 ♘b7 20.♘b2 ♟g4 21.♞d2 ♞c7 22.h3 ♟f6 23.♞ad1 ♞ad8 24.♞e3 ♞f7 25.♘e5 ♞g6 26.♞f2 ♘xe5 27.fxe5 ♟h5 28.♟h2 ♞g5 29.♞g1 ♞e7 30.b4!?

White tries to intercept the initiative.

30...cxb4 31.♞b6

Black will need to defend the e6 pawn.

31...g5 32.♟d4 ♟g7

Black may defend with 32...♟f4 33.g3 ♟xd3 34.♞xd3 ♘e4 35.♞d2 ♞fe8 36.♞gd1 (36.♞xa6 ♞xd4! 37.♞xd4 ♞a8!) 36...♞b7 simplifying the position.

33.♘c2 ♞b8 34.c5 ♘d5 35.♞d6 ♞xd6?!

The Queen exchange gives White a very strong pair of advanced pawns. It is better to avoid it and to exploit the vulnerable Queen on d6 with 35...♞a7.

36.exd6! ♞fc8 37.♘a4

An interesting variation is 37.♟xe6 ♘xe6 38.d7 ♞d8 (38...♘xd7 39.♞xd7 ♞xc5 40.♘b3+ ♟h8 41.♞e1) 39.c6 ♟c8 40.♞ge1.

37...♞xc5 38.♞c1 ♞c3 39.♞xc3 bxc3 40.♞c1 ♞b2?

Good only to draw. Better is 40...e5 giving e6 to the Knight.

41.d7 ♞xg2+ 42.♟h1 ½-½.

TD: Bryan Lamb Organizer: Alex Ferreira

Report: Egidijus Zeromskis

Coming Events



British Columbia

For complete information on chess in BC visit...

www.chess.bc.ca

Junior Events

February 20
Chess Challenge Vancouver Regional
February 28
Chess Challenge Fraser Valley Regional
February 28
Victoria Regional CYCC

Visit the BC website for details on these junior events.

UBC Thursday Night Swiss

Time: 6:30pm, **Thursdays**

Site: Irving K Barber Learning Center room 191 ,
University of British Columbia,
1961 East Mall V6T 1Z1

Contact Aaron Cosenza: xramis1@yahoo.ca

Victoria Active Fundraiser for the 2010 Olympiad

Dates: Feb 20

Place: Victoria Chess Club 1724 Douglas St, Victoria, BC.

Rounds: 5

Times: Sat. 10:00 am, 11:15 am, 1:30 pm, 2:45 pm, 4:00 pm

Type: Swiss (Active)

Time Controls: Game/25 with 5 sec. increment.

Entry: \$10 if registered and paid by Monday Feb. 15, \$11 if registered only by Feb 20, \$13 otherwise

Registration: Contact us at VictoriaChessClub@gmail.com. You can also register in person at the Victoria Chess Club with Roger Patterson. On site registration ends at 9:30 on Saturday. Registering after 9:30 does not guarantee a normal Swiss Pairing.

Organizer: Paul Leblanc and Roger Patterson

TD: Paul Leblanc

Misc.: Rated by the Victoria Chess Club. No chess membership fees required. Equipment provided. At least 85% of entries go to the 2010 Olympiad Team

March Active

Date: Sunday March 28, 2010

Place: Vancouver Bridge Centre,
2776 East Broadway (at Kaslo), Vancouver

Rounds: 6

Round Times: 11:00am Rd 2-6 12:20, 1:30 Lunch 2:55, 4:00, 5:05

Type: Regular Swiss.

Time Controls: G/25 + 5 sec. increments or G/30.

Entry Fee: \$20

Prizes 1st \$150 2nd \$100 BU2000 \$100 BU1700

\$100 Biggest Upset \$30 Based on 30 entries

Registration: On site at 10:30am or contact Luc Poiras at (778) 846-0496 email queluc@lynx.net Bring your chess set and clock if you have one. No membership required

4th Annual Grand Pacific Open

Dates: April 2-5, Easter 2010, Victoria

\$4000 in guaranteed Prizes

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC

Round Times: Fri. 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Mon. 10:00am

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Entry Fees: Open: \$70 by Mar. 1, \$80 by Apr. 1, \$90 on site. U1400: \$50 by Mar. 1, \$60 by Apr. 1, \$70 on site. Non-CFC members add \$16 for CFC Tournament Membership

Prizes: \$1,000/\$600/\$400 U2000 \$400/\$300. U1700 \$350/\$250 U1400 \$350/\$250 Upset \$100

Registration: on line at www.grandpacificopen.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Junior Chess Society. Mail to Brian Raymer, 2386 Dalhousie St., Victoria, BC V8R 2H6

Side Events: Free to GPO players, \$10 otherwise for an all side event pass. Scholastic, Active, Midnight Blitz, Bug-house

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule. The Pacific Coach Lines bus terminal is two blocks away.

Misc: Sets, boards and clocks provided. Special \$99 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "Chess2010") See website for further details and side events. FIDE and CFC rated. BCCF membership included in entry fee.

For Full Details see: www.grandpacificopen.com

35th Annual Keres Memorial

Dates: May 22-24, Victoria Day weekend 2010, Vancouver

\$4000 in guaranteed Prizes

For Full Details see: www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com



Alberta

For complete information on chess in Alberta visit...

www.albertachess.org

2010 Trumpeter Classic

January 30-31, 2010

Sandman Hotel

9805 100 St, Grande Prairie Alberta (780-513-5555)

5 round swiss, CFC rated

TC: Game in 90 + 30 seconds from move 1

Times: Sat. 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm, Sun. 9am, 1:30pm

\$700 Prize Fund plus door prizes!

Entry: Free for GMs & IMs & defending champion.

\$40 adult, \$30 junior

Register: 8:45am to 9:45am Saturday

Special event: **Friday Night Speed Tournament** starting at 8pm at the Sandman Hotel. Game in 5 minutes. \$10 entry fee, register 7pm to 7:45pm on site.

Limit of 10 players (round robin)

\$200 Prize Fund Guaranteed

1st \$100 2nd \$60 3rd \$40

This is a *Road Warrior* Event!

For more info visit: www.gpchessclub.com



2010 Alberta Youth Chess Championship

Open to Albertan Juniors born in 1992 or later (17 & under)
CFC & FIDE Rating

Date: February 13-14

Chief Arbiter: Simon Ong

Registration: \$25. CFC required, can be purchase on site.

Place: Calgary Chess Club, #274, 3359-27 Street N.E.
(403) 264-9498

Format: 5 rounds, Swiss or Round Robin. Sections with less than 8 players may be combined at the Arbiter's discretion. If there is only **one** player for that age section, then that player will **win by default** but is still required to play 5 rounds.

Time Control: Game 90 minutes + 30 seconds per move

Section by age:

Born in 1992-1993 U18

Born in 1994-1995 U16

Born in 1996-1997 U14

Born in 1998-1999 U12

Born in 2000-2001 U10

Born in 2002 or later U8

All players MUST PRE-REGISTER by email by February 1st

NO NEW ENTRIES will be accepted on site

Email: simong89@gmail.com

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

Visit www.albertachess.org/2010_AYCC.html for details

2010 Northern Alberta Open

February 20-21

Edmonton Chess Club, 10840 124 St.

Phone: 780-424-0283

Tournament Director: TBA

5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE rated

CFC membership is required and available at the door

\$41 adults, \$27 juniors

Entry fee: \$30

Registration: 9:00-9:45 AM Saturday, Feb. 20

Round times: Saturday, 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm.

Sunday, 10 am, 2:30 pm

Time controls: Saturday: G/90 + 30 seconds

Sunday: G/110 + 30 seconds

Prize fund: **Guaranteed \$600 in prizes.** More prizes if there are 25+ paid entries

Bonus prize: \$100 for a perfect score!!!

Miscellaneous: The winner qualifies for the 2010 Alberta Chess Championship (if an Alberta Resident)

Limit of 60 players so register early to guarantee your spot!



This is a *Road Warrior* event!

Visit www.albertachess.org/2010_NAO.html for details

2010 March of Kings

March 6-7

Calgary Chess Club, 274 3359 27th St. NE

5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE Rated, ONE SECTION

CFC membership required, can be purchased on site

TD: Tony Ficzer

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increment

Round Times: Saturday 10 am 2:30 pm 7 pm

Sunday 10 a.m. & ASAP after round 4

Byes: Maximum 2 half point byes available in first 3 rounds if notified before start of round 1

Prizes: Entries less expenses

Entry Fee: Adult \$30, Junior (<18) \$25. Free IM's & GMs.

Registration: Advanced entries encouraged. Email

tficzer@telus.net or phone 403-971-2437

On-site Registration: Saturday, March 6, 9 am to 9:45 am

Advanced entries must check in at registration desk

by 9:45 am or you will not be paired for first round!

CASH ONLY AT SITE, NO CHEQUES



This is a *Road Warrior* event

Visit www.albertachess.org/2010_March_of_Kings.html for details

Battle at the Border

September 4-6, Lloydminster AB

GM Hikaru Nakamura

GM Pascal Charbonneau

IM Yan Teplitski

FM Jack Yoos

Stay tuned for details





Ontario

For complete information on chess in Ontario visit...

www.chessontario.com

London January Open

City: London

Date: January 30, 2010

Place: Hillside Church (250 Commissioners Rd. East)

Rds: 4

Start Time: Saturday 10am

Type: Swiss, Standard Rated

TC: 1 Hour Sudden Death

EF: \$20

Prizes: \$\$BEN\$\$

Reg: 9:30am - 9:55am

Misc: Free parking in back of church. Bring clocks and sets. For more information contact Steve Demmery (519-642-1012) or E-Mail: chesslessons@mail.com

London February Open

City: London

Date: February 27, 2010

Place: Hillside Church (250 Commissioners Rd. East)

Rds: 4

Start Time: Saturday 10am

Type: Swiss, Standard Rated

TC: 1 Hour Sudden Death

EF: \$20

Prizes: \$\$BEN\$\$

Reg: 9:30am - 9:55am

Misc: Free parking in back of church. Bring clocks and sets. For more information contact Steve Demmery (519-642-1012) or E-Mail: chesslessons@mail.com

London March Open

City: London

Date: March 27, 2010

Place: Hillside Church (250 Commissioners Rd. East)

Rds: 4

Start Time: Saturday 10am

Type: Swiss, Standard Rated

TC: 1 Hour Sudden Death

EF: \$20

Prizes: \$\$BEN\$\$

Reg: 9:30am - 9:55am

Misc: Free parking in back of church. Bring clocks and sets. For more information contact Steve Demmery (519-642-1012) or E-Mail: chesslessons@mail.com

RA Spring Open

Ottawa

March 12-14, 2010

Details TBA

McIntosh Open

Morrisburg

April 10-11, 2010

Details TBA

Arnprior Open

Arnprior

May 1-2, 2010

Details TBA

Eastern Ontario Open

Ottawa

June 11-13, 2010

Details TBA

For complete details on the EOCA schedule, visit www.eoca.org/index.html



Viktar Chuprys Memorial

City: Mississauga

Dates: Thursday, January 28th to March 4th, 2010

Place: Mississauga Chess Club

Contact: chessking123@hotmail.com

Rds: 6

Times: Each Thursday 8pm to 11pm

Type: Swiss, Standard Rated

TC: G/90

EF: \$50 for non-club members

Prizes: \$\$BEN\$\$

Sponsor: Gideon Travel & Tours Ltd

<http://www.gideontravel.com>

Guelph Winter Pro-Am

City: Guelph

Contact: halbond@sympatico.ca

Date: February 6-7, 2010

Place: Room 442, Guelph University Centre

Rds: 5

Times: 10am, 1:30pm, 6pm / 10am, 2pm

Type: Swiss

TC: Rd1 G/60 + 30 sec, Rd 2-5 G/90 + 30 sec

EF: Pro \$55, others \$35

Prizes: \$50 per player returned as prizes in Pro Section, Trophies in amateur sections

Reg: Register by email halbond@sympatico.ca or send cheque to Hal Bond, #205 - 105 Conroy Crescent, Guelph ON N1G 2V5, \$10 late fee to register on site.

Misc: Sections: Pro (FIDE rated), U2000, U1700, U1400. Rating must be within 100 points of section floor to play up. Snacks, all equipment provided. A SWOCL Grand Prix event.

Hamilton Winter Open**City:** Hamilton**Date:** March 13th & 14th**Place:** Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, 100 Main St. West**Rds:** 5**Sections:** Open, U1900, and Juniors**Times:** 9:30am, 2pm, 6pm; 11am, 3:30pm**Type:** Swiss, Standard Rated**TC:** G/80 + 30 sec inc**EF:** \$45, Juniors \$15. Email us by March 12th to receive \$5 discount**Prizes:** \$\$\$\$**Org:** Garvin Nunes, Bob Gillanders, Joe Ellis, Gordon Gooding, Mikhail Egorov**Misc:** E-Mail your questions to: chesshamilton@gmail.com Or visit <http://chess.servegame.com/Hamilton> for information updates.**CMA February Active****City:** Toronto**Contact:** bevand@chess-math.org**Date:** February 6th, 2010**Place:** Strategy Games, 701 Mt Pleasant Road (South of Eglinton)**Province:** ON**Rds:** 5**Type:** Swiss**Times:** 10am, 11:15am, 1:15pm, 2:30pm, 3:45pm, 5pm**TC:** 25 minutes plus 5 seconds**EF:** \$20 by Jan 31st, 2010; \$10 more after that date.**Prizes:** \$400 in prizes. All prizes are gift certificates redeemable at Strategy Games. OPEN: 1st \$125, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50; U1800: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25**Reg:** Send entries payable to Larry Bevand, c/o Strategy Games, 701 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, ON M4S 2P4**Misc:** 2 sections: OPEN & U1800. 24 places available. Register early. Information (416) 486-3395. All equipment is supplied.**CMA February Blitz****City:** Toronto**Contact:** bevand@chess-math.org**Date:** February 7th, 2010**Place:** Strategy Games, 701 Mt Pleasant Road (South of Eglinton)**Province:** ON**Rds:** 6**Type:** Swiss**Times:** Begins at 1pm. Rounds as players finish.**TC:** 5 minutes per player plus 5 second increment**EF:** \$15**Prizes:** \$300 in gift certificates at Strategy Games. 2 sections. OPEN: 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$30. U1900: 1st \$60, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$20**Reg:** Send entries payable to Larry Bevand, c/o Strategy Games, 701 Mt Pleasant Rd, Toronto, ON M4S 2P4 OR At site between 12pm and 12:40pm**Misc:** Limited to 24 players. For more Information call (416) 486-3395. All equipment is supplied.**Attention CFC Members!**

Notify the CFC if you have changed your email address!

Send your new address to

info@chess.ca**Québec**

Pour la information de echec dans le Québec regarde...

<http://fqechecs.qc.ca/index.php>**NORTH AMERICAN YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP****AUGUST 16-18, 2010
MONTREAL, CANADA**

sanctioned by FIDE (World Chess Federation)

rated by FIDE, CFC, CMA

Players from Canada, USA, and Mexico will take part.

PART OF CHESS'N MATH 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MORE INFORMATION NEXT ISSUE

**Prince Edward Island****2010 UPEI Spring Active****City:** Charlottetown**Contact:** fred_mckim@hotmail.com**Date:** Saturday March 6th, 2009**Place:** UPEI, Kelley Building, Room 210**Province:** PE**Rds:** 5**Type:** Swiss**Times:** 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm**TC:** G/30**EF:** \$15, \$10 (students)**Prizes:** Cash prizes (All entries minus CFC Rating Fees)**Reg:** Pre-register prior to March 5th for above rates.**Misc:** Storm Day = March 7th.<http://sjchess.ca/mcc/upeisact10.html>

**Register your tournament
on the CFC website
Its FREE!**

Go to
www.chess.ca/tournaments.htm
to submit your event

**They won't come if they don't
know about it!**

February specials from the CFC Equipment Store

CFC Chess Medals



- ♦ Canadian Made
- ♦ Solid & Heavy
- ♦ 1½" wide ribbon
- ♦ Excellent Quality!

Regular price: \$4.50

Sale price: \$3.50



actual size 2.5" total
width
multidepth

Tournament directors stock up now!

Visit <http://members.chess.ca/store/>

January specials from the CFC Equipment Store



DGT North American

The brand-new DGT North American clock uses 10 built-in algorithms to give a complete range of timing choices, plus elegant design to satisfy the most demanding chess player. Even multi-period delay settings are easy! Quick-set options

permit instant set-up. Manual programming options are fast and intuitive and are automatically stored in memory. Of course our new digital timer is a superb chess clock, but it also times any two-person board game—like go, shogi, checkers, and Scrabble®. All the bells and whistles, together with DGT's reputation for quality and accuracy!

Regular: \$55 Sale: \$50 Buy 2 or more for \$45 each!

DGT 2010

This is DGT's best selling chess clock. This is the official clock as certified by FIDE! This clock replaced the DGT 2000 and is easier to program. New improved lever - buzzer feature - more timing options

Regular: \$85 Sale: \$75



DGT XL



Has all the same options as the DGT 2010 plus a few extras: it has the option to save and retrieve five user defined settings, and it connects to the DGT electronic chessboard. Burgandy only

Regular: \$110 Sale: \$100

DGT 960

Automatically generates random 960 positions. Ease of use and programming is extremely easy! Also has a variety of pre-programmed time controls.

Regular: \$45 Sale: \$40



Total Chess



Complete chess set with analog clock, vinyl board and weighted pieces from the Weighted Chess Set, Scorebook and padded carrying bag. There are colour choices for the clock, the board and the bag.

Regular: \$50 Sale: \$45

Total Chess Plus

Same as Complete Chess but has the DGT 960 clock instead of an analog clock.

Regular: \$65 Sale: \$58.50



Visit <http://members.chess.ca/store/>

RATINGS

Top Canadian FIDE Ratings				Top Canadian CFC Rated			
1	Kovalyov, Anton	QC	2601	1	Kovalyov, Anton	QC	2638
2	Spraggett, Kevin	ON	2586	2	Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2634
3	Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2583	3	Sambuev, Bator	ON	2608
4	Le Siège, Alexandre	QC	2528	4	Samsonkin, Artiom	ON	2606
5	Charbonneau, Pascal	QC	2509	5	Gerzhoy, Leonid	ON	2590
6	Tyomkin, Dimitry	ON	2497	6	Noritsyn, Nikolay	ON	2548
7	Roussel-Roozmon, Thomas	QC	2488	7	Roussel-Roozmon, Thomas	QC	2504
8	Sambuev, Bator	ON	2473	8	Hébert, Jean	QC	2494
9	Zugic, Igor	ON	2462	9	Porper, Edward	AB	2494
10	Gerzhoy, Leonid	ON	2459	10	Krnan, Tomas	ON	2484
11	Biyiasis, Peter	BC	2450	11	Hansen, Eric	AB	2484
12	Teplitsky, Yan	ON	2448	12	Panjwani, Raja	ON	2466
13	Porper, Edward	AB	2431	13	Quan, Zhe	ON	2462
14	Suttles, Duncan	BC	2420	14	Tayar, Jonathan	ON	2460
15	Hébert, Jean	QC	2418	15	Thavandiran, Shiyam	ON	2460
16	Pelts, Roman	ON	2417	16	Yoos, John C. (Jack)	BC	2444
17	Quan, Zhe	ON	2416	17	Hartman, Brian	ON	2428
18	Hartman, Brian	ON	2409	18	Cummings, David	ON	2427
19	Krnan, Tomas	ON	2408	19	O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2426
20	Adam, Dr. Valerian	BC	2407	20	Livshits, Ron	ON	2412
21	Hansen, Eric	AB	2406	21	Milicevic, Goran	ON	2400
22	Kriventsov, Stanislav	BC	2406	22	Sapozhnikov, Roman	ON	2398
23	Panjwani, Raja	ON	2401	23	Piasetski, Leon	BC	2396
24	Samsonkin, Artiom	ON	2399	24	Teodoro IV, Eduardo D.	ON	2390
25	Noritsyn, Nikolay	ON	2394	25	Gicev, Blagoj	AB	2386
26	Teodoro IV, Eduardo D.	ON	2387	26	Sasata, Robert	SK	2384
27	Hergott, Deen	ON	2385	27	Pechenkin, Vladimir	AB	2380
28	Yoos, John C. (Jack)	BC	2375	28	Hamilton, Robert	ON	2370
29	Lawson, Eric	QC	2373	29	Barron, Michael	ON	2368
30	O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2370	30	Plotkin, Victor	ON	2362
31	Micic, Chedomir	ON	2366	31	Pacey, Kevin	ON	2360
32	Cummings, David	ON	2360	32	Micic, Chedomir	ON	2358
33	Tayar, Jonathan	ON	2356	33	Szalay, Karoly	ON	2356
34	Amos, Bruce	ON	2355	34	Calugar, Arthur	ON	2350
35	Glinert, Stephen	ON	2349	35	Divljan, Igor	ON	2349
36	Livshits, Ron	ON	2336	36	Lee Jr., Vicente	BC	2344
37	Pechenkin, Vladimir	AB	2335	37	Martchenko, Alexander	ON	2342
38	Gicev, Blagoj	AB	2325	38	Jiang, Louie	QC	2338
39	Coudari, Camille	QC	2325	39	Bailey, Doug	ON	2333
40	Thavandiran, Shiyam	ON	2323	40	Gansvind, Valeria	BC	2332
41	Stone, Raymond	ON	2321	41	Mark, Eddie	ON	2332
42	Vranesic, Zvonko	ON	2320	42	Huber, Gregory	AB	2330
43	Jiang, Louie	QC	2312	43	Peng, David (Yu)	ON	2328
44	Milicevic, Goran	ON	2288	44	Haessel, Dale	AB	2328
45	Piasetski, Leon	BC	2285	45	Yuan, Yuanling	ON	2324
46	Hamilton, Robert	ON	2285	46	Gardner, Robert J.	AB	2320
47	Sasata, Robert	SK	2279	47	Kaminski, Victor	AB	2315
48	Day, Lawrence	ON	2279	48	Crisan, Ioan	ON	2310
49	Duong, Thanh Nha	QC	2278	49	Reeve, Jeff	AB	2306
50	Selick, Paul	ON	2275	50	Puri, Vinny	ON	2306

Top Female

1	Gansvind, Valeria	BC	2332
2	Yuan, Yuanling	ON	2324
3	Khoudgarian, Natalia	ON	2244
4	Kagramanov, Dina	ON	2218
5	Starr, Nava	ON	2116
6	Lacau-Rodean, Iulia	ON	2056
7	Kagramanov, Dalia	ON	2012
8	Orlova, Yelizaveta	ON	1992
9	Du, Jasmine	NS	1973
10	Xiong, Sonja	ON	1930
11	Kalaydina, Regina-Veronicka	AB	1899
12	Nadeau, Gabrielle	ON	1897
13	Botez, Alexandra	BC	1893
14	Chichkina, Olya	ON	1885
15	Serbanescu, Natasa	ON	1880
16	Todd, Adie	AB	1728
17	Peng, Jackie	ON	1660
18	Powell, Samantha	ON	1646
19	Szucs, Nadia	ON	1633
20	Xiao, Alice	BC	1580

Top Under 20 years

1	Noritsyn, Nikolay	19	ON	2548
2	Panjwani, Raja	20	ON	2466
3	Quan, Zhe	20	ON	2462
4	Kaminski, Victor	19	AB	2315
5	Vincent, Trevor	20	MB	2304
6	Davies, Noam	19	BC	2212
7	Oussedik, Elias	19	NB	2094
8	McDonald, Justin	19	ON	2004
9	Perelman, Leon	20	ON	1999
10	Du, Jasmine	19	NS	1973

Top Under 18 years

1	Kovalyov, Anton	18	QC	2638
2	Hansen, Eric	18	AB	2484
3	Thavandiran, Shiyam	18	ON	2460
4	Szalay, Karoly	17	ON	2356
5	Martchenko, Alexander	17	ON	2342
6	Jiang, Louie	17	QC	2338
7	MacKinnon, Keith	17	SK	2290
8	Sundar, Avinaash	17	ON	2228
9	Rakov, Pavel	17	ON	2212
10	Me, Kevin	18	SK	2189

Top Under 16 years

1	Sapozhnikov, Roman	16	ON	2398
2	Calugar, Arthur	16	ON	2350
3	Yuan, Yuanling	16	ON	2324
4	Xiong, Jerry	16	ON	2304
5	Kaminski, Thomas	15	AB	2226
6	Marinkovic, Mate	15	ON	2192
7	Gusev, Nikita	15	ON	2190
8	Kleinman, Michael	16	ON	2129
9	Wang, Jesse B	16	ON	2095
10	Inigo, Aquino	15	ON	2065

Top Under 14 years

1	Qin, Zi Yi (Joey)	14	ON	2240
2	Sohal, Tanraj S.	14	BC	2102
3	Li, Changhe	14	BC	2071
4	Knox, Christopher	13	ON	2062
5	Leu, Richard	14	ON	2036
6	Fu, James	13	ON	1978
7	Kalra, Agastya	13	ON	1917
8	Wang, Yuekai	14	AB	1913
9	Liu, Steven H.	13	ON	1912
10	Zhang, Zhiyuan	14	QC	1902

Top Under 12 years

1	Wang, Richard	12	AB	2154
2	Kong, Dezheng	11	BC	1997
3	Doknjas, John	11	BC	1904
4	Zhang, Kevin Z.	12	ON	1820
5	Song, Michael	11	ON	1800
6	Plotkin, Mark	12	ON	1784
7	Song, Guannan Terry	12	ON	1780
8	Swift, Ryne	12	MB	1776
9	Lin, Tony (Juntao)	12	ON	1732
10	Hui, Jeremy	12	BC	1702

Top Under 10 years

1	Zhang, Yuanchen	9	ON	1618
2	Bellissimo, Joseph	10	ON	1612
3	Wan, Kevin	9	ON	1584
4	Lee, Jonah	10	BC	1562
5	Kassam, Jamil	10	AB	1532
6	Zotkin, Daniel	9	ON	1504
7	Lin, William	10	ON	1370
8	Han, Lionel	10	BC	1272
9	Liu, Jiaxin	9	ON	1232
10	Zhao, Yue Tong (Davy)	8	ON	1230