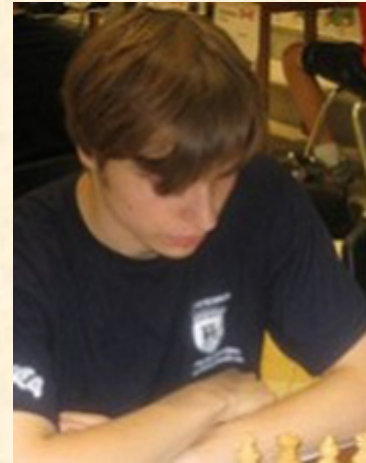


# Canadian Chess News



Official Newsletter of the Chess Federation of Canada

February, 2013



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Publication is the 4th of each month,  
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Deadline for article submissions is the 18th of each month.

Deadline for reports submissions is the 22d of each month

Games are to be sent in pgn format.

Photos should be in jpeg format.

Articles must be in electronic format.

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## From the Editor

The CFC decided that this magazine should become “more Canadian, and to comply with this decision, I either have introduced or about to introduce several significant changes.

To start with, there will be no more “Around the Globe” columns - and no reports about international events with no Canadian participation, World Championships being the only exception. A new column, *Canadians Abroad*, has replaced the “Globe”. It might be more difficult to find a replacement for major tournaments—so a lot of local help might/will be needed. So far we are blessed with a variety of “age tournaments” - this issue provides no less than four such ones. Two junior tournaments (the Canadian Junior and the BC Junior) are closely followed by two senior competitions (the BC Championship and the World Championships in Greece). To make sure, there is enough to read about in the future as well, I would like to launch a new initiative—namely, to encourage club directors around the country to provide information about their clubs. History, membership, traditions, current events, hopes and aspiration—all that might contribute to a new column

### Canadian Clubs - yesterday, today, tomorrow

I hope to be able to acquaint the readership with one of our clubs as early as the next issue.

Happy February to everybody

Edward Porper

## Canadian Chess News

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	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
Classified	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00

½ 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

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The editor reserves the right to limit ads

Ads must be paid in advance

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The Chess Federation of Canada (CFC) is a not-for-profit organization 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.

## Chess Game Symbols

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

## Chess Federation of Canada Membership dues and rating fees, effective June 1, 2011 with HST

Province	Old rates			New rates with tax		New rating fees	
	Adult	Junior	Tax rate	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior
British Columbia	36	24	12%	40	27	3.36	0.56
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Saskatchewan	43	25	5%	45	26	3.15	0.53
Manitoba	49	34	5%	49	35	3.15	0.53
Ontario	43	27	13%	48	30	3.39	0.57
Québec	36	24	5%	38	25	3.15	0.53
New Brunswick	41	27	13%	46	30	3.39	0.57
Nova Scotia	43	27	15%	48	31	3.45	0.58
Prince Edward Island	36	24	5%	38	25	3.15	0.53
Newfoundland & Labrador	39	26	13%	44	29	3.39	0.57
NWT, Yukon, Nunavut	36	24	5%	38	25	3.15	0.53
Foreign	36	24	0%	36	24	3.00	0.50

Membership rates have been rounded to the nearest dollar as a courtesy to members and TD's

Rating fees noted above apply only when submitted with SwissSys program.

Rating fees without SwissSys files are \$5 and \$2.50 for adult and junior tournaments respectively plus taxes.

Effective May 1, 2009: Single tournament memberships - Adult \$20, Junior \$10. Provincial portion of dues are \$4 and \$2 respectively. For now, there are no taxes on tournament memberships.

## Canadian Chess Links

We can't list them all, but here you will find a good selection of active Canadian chess links. If you would like to add your site to this list or report a broken link, email the editor at [sherlok7@gmail.com](mailto:sherlok7@gmail.com)

Chess Federation of Canada

<http://www.chess.ca/>

CFC Equipment Store

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

CFC Book Store

<http://astore.amazon.ca/chesfedeofcan-20/>

CFC Discussion Forum

<http://www.chesscanada.info/forum/>

Canadian Chess (David Cohen)

<http://www.canadianchess.info/>

Chesstalk

<http://chesstalk.com/>

Chess'n Math Association

<http://chess-math.org/>

MonRoi

<http://www.monroi.com/>

Canadian Correspondence Chess Association

<http://www.correspondencechess.com/ccca/>

ChessQuotes

<http://www.chessquotes.com/>

Canbase II

<http://canbase.fqechecs.qc.ca/canbaseii.htm>

### British Columbia

BC Chess Federation

<http://www.chess.bc.ca/>

British Columbia Chess History

<http://www3.telus.net/public/swright2/homepage.html>

Golden Knights Chess Club

<http://www.64funsolutions.ca/>

BC Active Events

<http://www.chessmastery.com/bcactive/>

Langley Chess Club

<http://www.langleychess.com>

### Alberta

Alberta Chess Association

<http://www.albertachess.org>

Calgary Chess Club Newsgroup

<http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/calgarychess/>

Calgary Chess Club

<http://www.calgarychess.com/>

Edmonton Chess Club

<http://edmontonchessclub.org/>

Edmonton Chess Club Newsgroup

<http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/>

The Roving Chess Nuts

<http://www.rovinchessnuts.com/index.html>

Grande Prairie Chess Club

<http://www.gpchessclub.com/>

### Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Chess Association

<http://sca.saskchess.com/>

Saskatoon Chess Club

<http://scc.saskchess.com/>

## Manitoba

Manitoba Chess Association  
<http://www.chessmanitoba.com/>

## Ontario

Ontario Chess Association <http://www.chessontario.com/>  
Greater Toronto Chess League <http://www.torontochess.org/drupal/>  
GTA Events <http://gtachessevents.memberlodge.com/>  
Annex Chess Club <http://annexchessclub.com/>  
Scarborough Chess Club <http://www.scarboroughchessclub.ca/>  
Annex Chess Club <http://annexchessclub.com/>  
Mississauga Chess Club <http://mississaugachessclub.ca/>  
Canadian Chess Academy <http://www3.webng.com/chessteacherno1/>  
Eastern Ontario Chess Association <http://www.eoca.org/>  
RA Chess Club (Ottawa) <http://ottawarachessclub.pbworks.com/>  
Kingston Chess Club <http://kingston.chess.club.freehostia.com/>  
Au Diapason Inc. (Cornwall) <http://www.audiapason.ca/index.html>  
South Western Ontario Chess League <http://chess.servegame.com/swocl/>  
Brantford Chess Club <http://www.brantchess.ca/>  
Kitchener-Waterloo Chess Club <http://www.kwchessclub.com/>  
Hamilton City Chess Club <http://chess.servegame.com/hamilton/>  
London Chess Club <http://londonchessclub.ca/>  
Windsor Chess <http://www.windsorchess.com>  
Northern Ontario Chess League <http://members.shaw.ca/chessforall/>

## Québec

Fédération Québécoise des Echecs <http://fqechecs.qc.ca/>  
Association Échecs et Maths <http://www.echecs.org/>  
Hébert parle Échecs <http://www.hebertparleechecs.com/>  
Ligue d'échecs de Montréal <http://echecsmontreal.org/spip/>

## New Brunswick

New Brunswick Chess <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/crgraves/nb-chess/>

## Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Chess Association <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NSChess/nschess.html>

## Prince Edward Island

Chess PEI [http://reallyhightech.com/chess/chess\\_pei](http://reallyhightech.com/chess/chess_pei)  
Maritime Chess Centre <http://reallyhightech.com/chess/>

## Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador Chess Association <http://www.chess.nl.ca/NLCA/>

## Blogs

Mark Bluvshstein's Blog <http://markbluvshstein.wordpress.com/>  
Abe Yanofsky Memorial Blog <http://aymemorialchess.blogspot.com/>  
Chess Manitoba Blog <http://chessmanitoba.blogspot.com/>  
Chess Blogger (Roman Jiganchine) <http://roman-chess.blogspot.com/>  
Case Tête 64 Morceaux (French, Stéphane Drolet) <http://casetete64.blogspot.com/>

## The Best from the West

By IM Deen Hergott



Photo credit: Jonathan Dumaresque

The 2013 Canadian Junior Chess Championship boasted an incredibly strong field, with four of the ten players rated over 2400 CFC, and all but one rated 2300 or higher. Naturally there has been rating inflation over time, but I recall when playing in this event in the early 1980's, a 2200 rating was a rare thing indeed! This was a strong field by any reckoning.

A nine-player round-robin, the field was chosen by rating and selection - top six seeds from the CFC rating list, and the remaining four through selection by the organizing body, Chess 'n Math Association. The event was held at The Briton House in Toronto from December 26-31 of 2012.

International Master (IM) Richard Wang, of Edmonton, was pre-tournament favourite on paper, but not by much. Only five CFC rating points separated him from 2nd-ranked Joey Qin, of Ottawa. And a mere nine points below that, FM Roman Sapozhnikov, of Richmond Hill, Ontario, was also a major player, the only participant to have won the CJCC in an earlier year, in 2011. The entire field was brimming with talent, and a fine sporting event was pretty much guaranteed.

For further player profiles, a full cross-table, and other information, the CMA Website has a fine link at: <http://chess-math.org/toronto/cjcc/>

The results of the games are always the bottom line, so let's see how this year's competition unfolded:

\*\*\*\*\*

As it turns out, the two favourites played in the first round and had a fairly normal calm draw in 25 moves. As things would unfold, the event would evolve as a contest focused mainly on these two players. 6th seed Michael Kleinman, of Toronto, scored the only win, with Black, in a complex game against Michael Song, of North York, and ironically, he too (Kleinman) would be a major player in the later events of the tournament.

Over the course of the next three rounds, Richard Wang took an early charge with three wins against players seeded in the lower half to lead with 3.5/4. Three players followed with 3: Joey Qin, who could only manage two draws with White in the first two rounds,

4th seed Louie Jiang, of Verdun, PQ, and Kleinman. 2011 winner, Roman Sapozhnikov, had a total collapse, by contrast, losing all three games, and was pretty certainly out of contention.

Round 5 saw things open up as leader Wang lost a sharp game to Razvan Preotu of Burlington.

**Preotu,Razvan - Wang,Richard [B19]**

CJCC 2013



**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♕f5 5.♖g3 ♗g6 6.h4 h6 7.h5 ♗h7 8.♗f3 ♗d7 9.♗d3 ♗xd3 10.♞xd3 e6 11.♗d2 ♖g6 12.0-0-0 ♗e7 13.♗e4 ♞b6!?**

Wang has played this way before in the Classical Caro-Kann. A key late win for him in Maribor last fall involved an interesting plan of ...♞b6-b5!?, attempting to simplify with a trade of queens or wrest control of the d5-square.

**14.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 15.♗c3**

Looks odd, but White has a regrouping idea in mind and needs the d-pawn to be adequately guarded.

**15...a5 16.♗d2**

White's idea, heading for greener pastures on c4 or e4.

**16...♞c7 17.♗e4 b5**

Black plays for space on the ♞-side, offering the minor exchange. 17. ...♗e7 was possible, but White would begin ♗-side expansion - Black hopes to save a tempo.

**18.g4**



**18...♗b6**

Very aggressive, maybe too much. The main difficulty with Black's idea is an issue of king safety. If Black can secure that, his idea is sound enough and the ♞-side

play is progressing nicely.

**19. ♖xf6+ gxf6 20. ♕d2 ♖d6 21. f4 ♖d5 22. ♔b1 ♕d7!?**

Bold play by Wang, but is it sound? Well, it depends of course on whether or not White can open some lines – that won't be good for Black in the long run. Black's trouble is finding an active plan that won't give White this opportunity.

**23. ♖he1 ♗c4 24. ♕c1 ♗d6**

Reasonable. Black would like to lay siege to White's g4–pawn without allowing an f4–f5 breakthrough.

**25. ♖g1**

Perhaps an admission that ♖he1 earlier may have been too wooden a play. The g–pawn is White's main concern as a potential target.

**25...b4 26. f5!?! exf5 27. gxf5 a4**

Taking on f5 just exposes the f6–pawn to attack along the f–file.

**28. ♕f4! ♗xf5**

If 28... ♖xf5, 29. ♕xd6 ♖xd3 30. ♖xd3 ♕xd6 31. ♖f3! is a great ending for White. Black's pawns are bigger targets, and his king is floating.



**29. ♕e5!**

A nice interference tactic.

**29... ♗d6 30. ♕xd6**

A surprise, although not without its points. 30. ♕xf6 looks simpler, and good enough for a plus as well. The text hopes to prove the knight as a useful defender and best eliminated.

**30... ♖xd6 31. d5**

Of course.

**31... ♕c7! 32. ♖g7**

White is down a pawn, but Black clearly must tread carefully and must be a bit worse here.

**32... ♖hf8 33. ♖g6**

This allows Black a strong possibility. 33. ♖f3 ♖ad8 34. ♖e3!?, eyeing a7 and h6, still looks like a little something for White, but there would still be a lot of fight.

**33... ♖ae8**

Logical, but 33... ♖a5! looks to give Black a slight edge. Clearly a very tricky position.

**34. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 35. ♖xf7+ ♖e7 36. ♖f8 cxd5**

36... ♖e5 or 36... ♖d7 were also possible, but the loss of h6 is the key aspect of the position now.

**37. ♖xh6**

White is playing with something again now. Black's exposed king combined with the passed h5–pawn will spell great nuisance value for the defence.

**37... ♖e5**



**38. ♖d2!**

A great move by Preotu, which initially appears to be a blunder.

**38... ♖xh5 39. ♖d4!**

This strong centralization is the key point. Of course both Black pawns on b4 and d5 were taboo, but with both ♖c5+ and ♖a7+ in the air now, Black's queen is seriously misplaced.

**39... ♖e5 40. ♖a7+ ♕d6 41. ♖b6+ ♕d7 42. ♖g1 ♖g5!?**

Black could have played 42... ♖g5 as well, but may have felt some centralization was required. The position is very delicate – White certainly has compensation and some initiative, but is it enough?

**43. ♖b5+**

Naturally hoping to lure Black's king onto a mined square, but the little move 43. a3!?, while g1 is defended, was worthwhile as well. Black would respond 43... b3 to maintain some mating threats, but there would be real risk of ♖–side liquidation when White's passed pawns would pose greater long–term risk than Black's split ones.

**43... ♕d8 44. ♖a5+ ♕c8**

To avoid losing a pawn with check.

**45. ♖c5+**

White returns to the idea of making luft with a2–a3.

**45... ♕d7**



**46. a3**

A new and strong try.

**46...b3 47.cxb3 axb3 48.♖c1 ♜f5+ 49.♔a1**

Now that the immediate back rank mate threat is gone, Black's king has to face the trouble its had all game – where to hide?

**49...♔e8 50.♜b5+ ♔f7 51.♜b7+ ♖e7 52.♜xb3**

Black's done fairly well to reach this, but his task is not easy here. His king is much more exposed, and so he must always be very careful. White's task to convert is not simple either, but his position is clearly preferable as there is less risk.

**52...♜e4 53.♜h3 d4 54.♜h5+ ♔e6 55.♜h8 d3  
56.♜g8+ ♔e5 57.♜d8 ♖e6?**

A big mistake, losing against exact play, but both sides have difficult finding best moves here, Black more so than White.

**58.♖c5+?**

58.♜b8+! actually leaves Black with no recourse.

58...♖d6 59.♖c5+ is immediately over, 58...♔f5 59.♖f1+ and 60.♜g8+ eventually nets Black's king on the side of the board, and 58...♔d4 59.♜b4+ ♔e5 60.♜c5+ ♔f4 61.♖c4 is also winning. The text looks like a good idea too, but...

**58...♔f4 59.♖d5**



**59...♜e1+?**

Potentially time trouble, but this check is the end. The only move was to push onwards with 59...♔e3!, when White would need to start all over to bring his forces against the Black king. In the game, Black's d-pawn is dropping for nothing, and the attack continues.

**60.♔a2 ♜c1 61.♖d4+ ♔f5 62.♜d5+ ♖e5 63.♜f3+ ♔e6**

This leads to a faster end, but 63...♔g6 64.♜xd3+ is not going to survive either.

**64.♜g4+!**

This time Black will not escape.

**64...♔f7 65.♖d7+ ♖e7 66.♜h5+**

A tremendous fight against the tournament favourite, and an important one in the standings.

**1-0**

Jiang and Qin drew, while Kleinman had somewhat of a gift win against the youngest and lowest-rated player, Olivier-Kenta Chiku-Ratté when the win of an exchange

was overlooked in the early middlegame. This put Kleinman on top going into the last four rounds.

Round 6 saw strong performances by Qin and Wang, who recovered well, while Kleinman took a 14-move draw with Nikita Kraiouchkine, of Granby.

**Qin,Joey - Chiku-Ratte,Olivier-Kenta [B76]  
CJCC 2013**



**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6  
6.♕e3 ♕g7 7.f3 ♗c6 8.♜d2 0-0 9.0-0-0!?**

A major alternative to the Yugoslav Attack lines, where White's ♕/c4 prevents Black's next move.

**9...d5 10.exd5 ♗xd5 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♕d4 ♗xc3**

Theory advocates the Exchange sacrifice 12...e5 13.♕c3 ♕c6!?, but 14.♗e4, declining the offer has proven better for White in praxis. Qin's young opponent plays for simplification instead, but as long as White keeps some heavy pieces on the board, Black's pawn structure will always give some edge to White.

**13.♜xc3 ♕h6+ 14.♕e3 ♕xe3+ 15.♜xe3**



**15...♜b6?**

Unsound, but 16.♕c4 after 15...♜c7 or 15...♜a5 is very pleasant and riskless for White. The text is a worse move, but Black hopes to mix it up by unbalancing things. The one advantage is that Black's bishop gets to the e6-square this way, but that alone is not worth a pawn.

**16.♜xe7! ♕e6 17.♜a3 ♖ad8**

17...a5!?, intending ...♜b4 perhaps.

**18.♕d3 ♖d5**

Black is looking for creative counterplay.

**19.♖he1**



Not best. 19.♖c3! leaves Black much less coordinated as he must win the a2–pawn with the bishop rather than rook. Even in the game Black's position looks less cohesive after regaining his pawn, but White could have had even more.

19...♖a5 20.♖c3 ♖xa2 21.b3 ♖a5 22.♗b2



White enjoys a structural advantage that he is able to nurse for the remainder of the game. Black may not be lost, but his position will always be much less pleasant to play.

22...♖c5 23.♖f6 ♗d8 24.♖xd8 ♖xd8 25.c4 ♖a5 26.♙e4 ♖b8 27.♖c1

27.♗c3 is a bit more accurate, but the structure is static and this is what really counts. Black cannot easily eliminate his weaknesses, while White can always slowly build.

27...♖a4 28.♗c3 ♖ab4 29.♙c2 ♗f8

29...♙f5!?, but White has 30.♖c3 or even 30.♙d1 to keep advantage.

30.g4 ♗e7 31.♖e5 ♗d6 32.♖a5

The assault on Black's ♖–side has started, whereas Black has little to do for counterplay...not a good sign!

32...♖4b7 33.♖ca1 ♖a8 34.♙e4

Black is lost.

34...♙d7 35.b4 f6 36.b5 f5



37.♙d1+ ♗c7 38.♖xd7+! ♗xd7 39.bxc6+

A strong positional effort by Qin, which put him right back in the hunt for first.

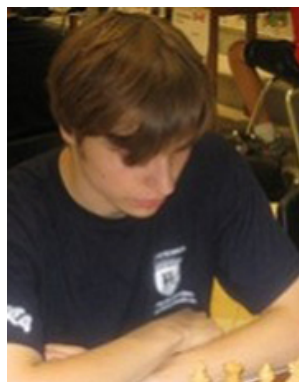
1-0

The seventh round saw yet another change at the top as Qin lost a complex battle to Kraiouchkine, and Wang drew. Kleinman took yet another quick draw, in only 12 moves this time, and it suggests that nerves may have

been playing a part for him. With a key game against Wang yet to come, he may have given more thought to building up some insurance by playing for wins against his opponents of rounds six and seven - psychology always plays a key role in these round-robin events.

**Kraiouchkine, Nikita - Qin, Joey [D01]**

CJCC 2013



1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗c3 d5 3.♙g5

Veresov's Opening – judging by his games in this event, White's repertoire seems full of offbeat variations.

3...♙f5 4.♖d2 e6 5.f3 ♙e7 6.0-0 ♗bd7 7.g4 ♙g6 8.h4



A clash of styles – Black is playing very classically, White is swinging for a wild battle.

8...h5

Or 8...h6. The text initiates sharper play.

9.gxh5 ♗xh5 10.♗h3 ♗df6 11.♙g2 ♖d7

Black's play may not be best, but it's certainly OK and very logical. He wants to bring his king to the relative safety of the ♖–side and then consider how to proceed.

12.e4 0-0-0 13.♗f2 dxe4!? 14.fxe4 ♗b8 15.♖h3 ♗e8

Black is a bit cramped, so offering a trade makes some sense.

16.e5?!

I don't like this much. It does restrict the e8–knight, and open the long diagonal, but it also gives away a lot of the central control.

16...f6 17.♙e3 ♙f5 18.♖h2 c6

Simply making room for ...♗c7, when the weakened d5–square looks quite inviting. Black has definitely made more progress than White over the past half dozen

moves.

19. ♖e2 fxe5 20. dxe5 ♖c7 21. ♖c3 ♖xd1+ 22. ♖xd1



22... ♖f6!

A nice trick, based on the loose ♖/h2.

23. ♖h1 ♖d7 24. ♖d4 c5 25. ♖g1 ♖xe5

Black has played well to win a pawn, and so while hard to fault this move, 25... ♖g4! first would have been even more inconveniencing. The text, is of course fine, however.

26. ♖e3 ♖d6 27. ♖b1 ♖g6

Perhaps 27... ♖f6 is simpler. It's tempting, of course, to keep this bishop, but it does weaken the e6-pawn.

28. ♖b3 ♖e8 29. ♖h2 ♖f7 30. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 31. ♖d1 ♖e7

Guards against 32. ♖xd6, but 31... ♖e4 or 31... ♖f5 leaves the rook less overworked.

32. ♖a4 ♖e8 33. ♖g4 ♖f6 34. ♖g3 ♖c8 35. ♖g5

Black is trying desperately to simplify the position. White insists on keeping it as messy as possible. This proves Black's only problem in this game. His advantage here is hard to contest – the extra pawn is somewhat weak, but it's extra as well! Time pressure may have played a part in the coming phase.

35... ♖b6 36. ♖f4



36... ♖h7?!

While this move doesn't ruin anything, it seems wrong to remove a piece to the edge of the board. Even 36... e5!?, while Black has the d5-square adequately covered seems more sensible.

37. ♖g3 ♖d7 38. ♖c4! ♖f7??

This must be a time-trouble oversight. Probably 38... ♖hf6, bringing the knight back into the game, is best – Black still has decent chances to win. The text is a horrific oversight, after which Black's game sadly collapses.

39. ♖d6 ♖e7 40. ♖xb7?

Likely more time trouble, or White would surely have found 40. ♖b5!, which is instant lights out. Unfortunately this slip is not one Black can recover from. 40. ♖b5 ♖e5 41. ♖e1+-

40... ♖hf6 41. ♖d6 ♖b6 42. a3?

Mostly pointless. 42. ♖h3!, targeting e6 keeps White well on top. This might still have been residual zeitnot. Black also fails to take advantage now.

42... ♖c6?

42... e5! would have rid Black of all of his troubles, as White's ♖/d6 suddenly loses tactical stability. And 43. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 is fine for Black.

43. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 44. ♖g6 ♖c7



45. ♖e5

The cute 45. ♖f8! also underlies how poor Black's game is. A shame for Black, but chess is a cruel mistress. Sometimes one mistake is one too many.

45... ♖a4 46. b3 ♖a6 47. ♖ec4

47. c4!, to anchor a knight on b5, wins very quickly. White's advantage is too huge here, however, for Black to harbour any hopes short of a huge blunder.

47... ♖bd5 48. ♖e5 ♖a8 49. ♖g1 ♖e7 50. h5

White has lost some momentum, but the position is still hopeless for Black. Qin played on, but must have known it was a fairly done deal.

50... ♖c6



51. h6! gxh6 52. ♖g6 ♖d7 53. ♖g8+ ♖b8 54. ♖xb8+ ♖xb8 55. ♖h8+ ♖e8 56. ♖xe8 ♖c8 57. ♖cd6 ♖d8 58. ♖e5 1-0

The tournament favourite proved his mettle in the penultimate round, winning a key game against the threatening Kleinman in a hair-raising battle. Qin

recovered well with a nice win against Ottawa's Karoly Szalay, but the damage was done. Half a point behind with only one game left, top seed Wang was on his way to a first place finish.

**Wang, Richard - Kleinman, Michael [B08]**  
CJCC 2013



1.d4 ♖f6 2.♗f3 g6 3.♘c3!? ♙g7

3...d5 4.♙f4 was the main option for Black.

4.e4 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.♙e3

Now we have a Pirc Defence.

6...c6 7.a4 a5 8.♙e2 ♘a6 9.0-0 ♚c7 10.♘d2

Clearing the f-pawn's path and eyeing b6 and a5 potentially.

10...d5 11.e5

This looks natural enough, but could just be wrong. White's ♘ is not a well-placed minor and 11.exd5!? could go a long way towards solving the problem. After 11...♘xd5 12.♘xd5 cxd5, White doesn't have much, but Black's ♚-side is rather holey, and the a6-knight will have to regroup as well.

11...♘e8 12.f4 f6 13.♘b3?!

I don't see the point of this move, and Black could gain some play now with ...♘b4 and ...♙f5. Again the c3-knight is a problem for White here. And now the ♘/b3 isn't much better!

13...♘b4 14.♚d2 b6 15.g4 fxe5?!

With Black's rooks disconnected, opening the f-file seems imprudent. Either 15...e6 or 15...f5, and Black's game is probably not worse.

16.fxe5 ♙xf1+ 17.♙xf1 ♙e6

Very slight edge to White, but those knights really need to find better posts.

18.♙f3 ♚d7 19.♘e2 ♘c7 20.c3

Finally.

20...♘ba6 21.♘f4 ♙f7 22.h4 ♘e6 23.♘h3 ♘ac7  
24.♙d1 ♙f8 25.♙f2!?

I sense that Wang may not have believed he held an objective advantage here, but keeping pieces on the board provided greater chances of outplaying his lower-rated opponent. In much the way that 23.♘h3 was

designed to keep pieces on, the text prepares to avoid an exchange of rooks along the f-file.

25...♙e8 26.♙g2 c5 27.♘c1

The point of 24.♙d1 shows up – the a4-pawn is defended now.

27...b5!? 28.h5?!

28.axb5 is called for, there's no reason to give up the a4-pawn.

28...bxa4 29.♘d3

White's going all out, but Black is doing fine here.

29...c4! may even give some edge.

29...a3?!

Unnecessary, but the game is very sharp, with many ideas for both sides...the time control always becomes an issue in such complex positions.

30.bxa3 ♘b5 31.♙a4 ♚b7 32.h6!?

Hoping to entomb this piece.

32...♙h8 33.♙xb5 ♚xb5 34.♘df4 cxd4 35.cxd4 ♙d7

36.♘xe6 ♙xe6 37.♘f4 ♙d7 38.♚a2 e6 39.♚b2 ♚a4

40.♘h2



Genius of bluff? 40.♙c2 would have been about equal.

40...♙xe5!

If this works, it's obviously Black's best, eliminating the problem bishop in spectacular fashion.

41.dxe5 ♙xf4 42.♙xf4 ♚xf4+ 43.♙g3?!

43.♘g1 ♚xh6 44.♚b8+ ♘g7 45.♙f2 should end in a draw. The text is much riskier.

43...♚xh6+ 44.♘g2 ♙c6??

A tragic error that meets with a startling refutation.

44...♚f4 would give the nod to Black, although White can likely hang on with precise play.



45.♙f3!!

Allowing a pin, but one that Black can't afford to make: 45...d4 gets mated on f8 after 46.♖b8+. Black tries his best, but White has the win worked out to the end now.

45...♗g7 46.♖b8 ♖d2+ 47.♗h3 ♗h6 48.♖f8+ ♗g5 49.♖e7+ ♗h6 50.♖g3

And g4-g5 cannot be met. A fierce struggle, with chances for both sides. Far from perfect, but Wang must have known a win was far and away the best result to play for, and although lucky, he was ultimately rewarded for his bravery. Black too has to be commended for a fine fight.

### 1-0

The last round saw a sharp draw in Jiang-Wang, and an imbalanced draw in Kleinman-Qin, when Joey offered his queen for rook and bishop and strong control of an open file. Either of these games could have been played on for full points, but if Qin's ended first, there would be little point in Wang risking a win to score a loss. I'd be curious to know which game was recorded a draw first.

In the final analysis, Richard Wang managed to meet predictions by posting a clear first place victory with 6.5 points out of 9, and will represent Canada at the World Junior in Hatay, Turkey later this year. Joey Qin came clear 2nd with 6/9, and Michael Kleinman put in a strong performance for clear 3rd with 5.5 points. The event provided many interesting fights, and junior chess has a healthy future in Canada, if only lacking for more international opportunities. Larry Bevand has been a strong supporter for chess, particularly scholastic, in Canada and this event was further proof of his continued commitment.

All pictures in this article are credited to <http://chess-math.org/toronto/cjcc/>



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## 2012 BC Junior Championship: A Player's Perspective

By John Doknjas



Not too long ago, the BC Junior Championship was mainly a head-to-head battle between the two strongest junior players. For example, in 2006, the young powerhouses, Bindi Cheng and Louie Jiang, battled for the championship with 14 other juniors, but they were 200 to 300 points higher rated than the next closest player. The two favourites ended up that year with the same number of points after the regulation 5 games:

[http://chess.ca/crosstable?  
tournament\\_check\\_number=200611038&key=121215](http://chess.ca/crosstable?tournament_check_number=200611038&key=121215)

On the other hand, this year the current BC junior players are much closer in strength and quite a few are national champions. In the latest edition of the BC Junior Championship, there were six 2012 WYCC participants, six former National Champions (from the CYCC and Canadian Chess Challenge), big prize winners from major events (2012 Vancouver Open, 2012 Langley Labour Day Open, 2012 Canadian Open, 2012 Keres Memorial, and 2012 Grand Pacific Open), and one World Youth Champion. So, even though I was the 2011 BC Junior Champion coming into this year's competition, it would not be an easy task to defend my title.



Tournament room

In the first round of the 2012 BC Junior Championship, all of the games concluded predictably; the higher seeds (Ryan Lo, FM Jason Cao, Jack Cheng, NM Tanraj Sohal, and yours truly, John Doknjas) won their games. However, on board one, Max Gedajlovic (1782) as White was able to pull off quite an impressive king-side attack against the highest rated player, Ryan Lo (2217). Unfortunately for Max, in time trouble he didn't find the correct way to continue to build up pressure on

Black's King; subsequently, White lost on time. Note that this year, the time control was 80 minutes + 5 seconds increment.

In the second round of the tournament, all but one of the higher rated players won their games. Jason Cao (2212) was Black against me, and after a sharp struggle on the King-side, I was able to seize the initiative. In some fierce time trouble, the game eventually concluded in my favour.

**Doknjas, John (2070) - Cao, Jason (2212) [E84]**

BC Junior Championship Vancouver (2.2), 01.12.2012

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♖c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♗c3  
♗c6 7.♞d2 a6 8.♗ge2 ♞b8 9.♗c1 e5 10.d5 ♗d4  
11.♗b3 ♗xb3 12.axb3 c5 13.g4**

Grabbing an opportunity to attack on the King-side while things are closed for now on the Queen-side and in the centre.

**13...h5 14.h3 ♗h7 15.gxh5 ♞h4+**



**16.♗d1!?**

The plan behind this move is to keep Black's Queen stuck on the King-side. Meanwhile, White will attack on the Queen-side, since Black doesn't have many forces there.

**16...♞xh5 17.♗e2 f5 18.h4 f4 19.♗f2 g5 20.♗c2 g4**

Black is anxious for counter play. However, White is ready to switch back to the King-side.

**21.fxg4 ♗xg4 22.♗xg4 ♞xg4 23.h5!**

This move takes the h5-square away from Black's Queen and controls g6. This move is also played with tempo, since White threatens h6 followed by ♞ag1, or vice versa.

**23...♗h8 24.♞ag1 ♞d7 25.♞g6 ♗f6 26.♗h4!**

Eliminating ♗f6 makes it easier for White to control Black's dark squares, especially g7.

**26...b5!**

Since White has the initiative on the King-side, Black turns to the Queen-side for counter play. This makes things harder for White.

**27.cxb5!?**

Not allowing Black to take on c4 and open the b-file.

**27...axb5 28.♗xf6+ ♞xf6 29.♞g2 b4 30.♞g1?**

Much simpler is retreating ♗c3 first and then playing this move.



30...♖f7?

Black misses his chance.

30...♖xg6! 31.hxg6 ♖g8∞

31.♘d1 f3 32.♖g3

Black is without counter play.

32...♖c8 33.♖g4 ♖e8?

33...♗d8 stops the invasion of the Queen at d7. That move would have resisted longer, but White would still have a huge advantage.

34.♖g7 f2

34...♖f8 35.♖d7+

35.♖xf7 fxg1♖ 36.♖xh7+ ♘xh7 37.♖xg1 ♖g8 38.♖h2 ♖f4 39.♖h3 ♘h8 40.♖e6 ♖g2+ 41.♘d3 ♖g3+ 42.♘c4 ♖xe4+ 43.♘b5 ♖f4 44.♖xd6 ♖f5 45.♖h6+ ♘g8 46.♖e6+ ♖f7 47.d6 ♖d3 48.♖g6+

1-0



John Doknjas

In the third round of the tournament, Tanraj Sohal played Ryan Lo as White. The game soon transposed into a Sämisch King's Indian. After developing an attack on the King-side, Ryan unexpectedly closed up that sector of the board. This allowed Tanraj to easily continue developing his attack on the Queen-side. Black used all his pieces to defend on that side, and

White continued to apply pressure there. The second player had many opportunities to even go for the advantage, but instead he decided to keep defending. Thus, Tanraj was eventually able to break through and win the game.

In the same third round, Jack Cheng was Black against me. After a sharp King's Indian, I broke through in the centre and eventually won a whole Rook for two pawns. However, Black's Queen, Rook, and two Bishops proved to be extremely dangerous. Although they conducted a grievous attack, I still had a chance to save myself and be better. This opportunity was missed, though, thus allowing Jack to win my Rook. With his two pawns lead, he won the game in a fierce time scramble.

In the penultimate round, the two leaders faced off: Jack Cheng and Tanraj Sohal, both with 3 points/3 games. The game was a Sicilian, with Jack as White and Tanraj as Black. The first player was able to gain a very comfortable position out of the opening, and in the middlegame he used very ambitious and aggressive plans. These strategies proved to not be the best, and eventually Tanraj was able to seize in the initiative. However, as in a number of games during this championship, time proved a factor, which helped Jack emerged victorious.

**Cheng, Jack (2206) - Sohal, Tanraj (2192) [B45]**

BC Junior Championship Vancouver (4.1), 02.12.2012

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6

5...e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♘d5 ♗c6 (7...♘xd5 8.exd5 ♘e7 9.c4) 8.♘bc7+

6.♘db5 ♗c5

6...♗b4 This is more popular, because after: 7.♘d6+ ♘e7 8.♘xc8+ ♖xc8 Black has a lot of pressure on White's centre. As a result, the first player's best 7th move is 7.♗g5

7.♘d6+ ♘e7 8.♘xc8+ ♖xc8 9.♗d3

Since Black's Bishop is on c5, White's centre isn't under nearly as much pressure; thus, he seems very comfortable here. He has the two Bishops, a safer King, and good attacking opportunities.

9...a6 10.0-0 ♖c7 11.♘h1 h5 12.♗g5!

This stops Black from moving his King to safety on the King-side, because if he does, White takes on f6. This doubles Black's f-pawns, makes h5 isolated, and opens the g-file that White could use to invade on.

12...♘f8 13.♗xf6 gxf6 14.f4 ♗d4 15.♖b1 ♘e7

Black has done a good job defending his difficult position. However, White is still much better here.

16.e5?!

This move is a nice attacking one, but not the best. A much more clear cut plan was moving ♘c3 out of ♗d4's grasp, and then attacking on the ♖-side. This would create another weakness in Black's position.

With Black's weaknesses on the King-side, it would be difficult for Black to defend his new weakness on the Queen-side. 16.♖e2 ♕a7 17.b4 h4 18.c4 ♖f8 19.c5 d6 20.b5 axb5 21.cxd6 ♗xd6 22.♞xb5 ♞c7 23.♞f3 It is very difficult for Black to defend his b7 pawn while also trying to defend his weaknesses on the King-side.

16...fxe5 17.f5 d5 18.fxe6 fxe6



19.♕g6?!

This goes after a pawn on the side of the board, and is not the best plan that White has at his disposal. Now, Black can organize counter-play. 19.♖e2 ♕c5 20.♗d2 Followed by c4 and ♗g5+, attempting to break through the Black King's defenses.

19...♞cf8 20.♞xf8 ♞xf8 21.♞xh5 ♞b6 22.♞d1 ♕xc3 23.bxc3 ♞f2

Now Black is better: White is overextended and has run out of sufficient resources to attack Black's King.

24.h3 ♞f6 25.♞h7+ ♖d6 26.♕h5?

(Because of time-trouble, the players stopped notating here. In the time scramble, Jack emerged victorious) 26.♕h5 allows 26... ♞h8, forcing 27. ♗g6 ♗xg6 28. ♕xg6 b5!, fixing White's doubled c-pawns. As a result, Black is much better. 26.♕d3 Maintains the tension.

1-0



Jack Cheng

Going into the final round, Jack Cheng was in a great position to capture his first BC Junior Championship title as he was the only player at that point with a perfect 4 points/4 games; all he had to do was draw or win his last game to secure the championship. The only problem, though, was that the leader was up against a former World Youth Chess Champion -- Jason Cao. Jason had caught up with the leaders by winning his last two games and was in a four way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Tanraj Sohal, Joshua Doknjas and me. All of us had 3 points/4 games, and we were all in contention for the Championship title; or at least co-Championship title. Thus, a win in the final round was crucial for all of us.

In Jason and Jack's game, Jason was White and played one of the oldest known openings, the Ruy Lopez. The first player soon developed a troublesome initiative on the King-side and kept applying pressure there. Eventually, White brought his Queen into the fray and with the support of all his minor pieces, Jason emerged victorious.

Cao, Jason (2212) - Cheng, Jack (2206) [C84]

BC Junior Championship Vancouver (5.1), 02.12.2012

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♕b5 a6 4.♕a4 ♖f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♕b3 ♕b7 7.d3 ♕e7 8.a4

The second most popular move here. The aim of 8. a4 to weaken Black's Queen-side while also creating a retreat square for ♕b3.

8...d6

8...b4 This advance is also possible. By playing ...b4 immediately, Black stops White's ♖c3 - ♖e2 - ♖g3 maneuver. The Knight can still get to g3 by playing ♖bd2 - ♞c1 - ♖f1 - ♖g3, but this takes longer.; 8...d5 This is also a plausible alternative, as it provides active play. 9.axb5 axb5 10.♞xa8 ♕xa8 11.exd5 ♖xd5 12.♞e1 ♖d4 13.♖xd4 exd4 14.♞g4 0-0 15.♞xd4 ♕d6 16.♕xd5 ♕xd5 17.♖c3 ♞e8 18.♞xc8+ ♗xc8 19.♕e3 ♕c6 20.♖c4 ♗a8 21.f3 ♕xc4 22.dxe4 ♗a5 23.♞d2 b4 24.f4 h6 25.h3 ♕c5 26.♕xc5 ♗xc5+ 27.♖h1 ♗c7 28.♞d4 c5 29.♞e3 ♞d6 30.♖h2 c4 31.e5 ♗g6 32.♞f2 ♗e4 33.♖h1 b3 34.cxb3 cxb3 35.♖h2 g6 36.h4 h5 37.♞g3 ♗c2 38.♞g5 ♗xb2 1/2-1/2 Rawley, L-Rehle, T (2174)/Mt Vernon 2000/EXT 2002

9.♖c3 b4 10.♖e2 ♖a5 11.♕a2 c5 12.♖g3 0-0



13.c3!

This move forces Black to part with his strong b4 pawn. At the same time, 13. c3 gives White the option

of playing d4 (after the e4-pawn is well supported).

**13...bxc3 14.bxc3 h6 15.♘f5**

White rapidly develops a troublesome initiative on the King-side.

**15...♙c8 16.♘3h4**



**16...♞e8?!**

This is a bit too slow and Black needs to find counter-play here. 16...c4!? This is a good attempt to make this complicated and distract White from the King-side.

**17.♞f3**

White's f5 Knight is well supported and at an excellent outpost, striking at important points. White's two Bishops are pointing at the King-side. With the support of his Queen, the first player's initiative becomes decisive.

**17...♙xf5 18.♘xf5 ♘h7 19.♞g3 g5 20.♞h3 h5  
21.♙xg5 ♘g6 22.♙xf6 ♙xf6 23.♞g3+ ♙g5 24.h4 f6  
25.hxg5 fxg5**

**1-0**



**Jason Cao**

Joshua Doknjas (1859), as White, was paired with Matthew Herdin (1972). Joshua was tied for second after round 4 because he was able to take down Ryan Lo in the previous game. In his battle with Matthew, the first player seized the initiative after a sharp struggle, but Black was able to obtain some dangerous counter-play. This proved to be decisive for the second player, and he won the game.

I was playing Tanraj as Black, and after an extremely sharp game, White obtained a Queen for a Rook and Bishop. He was able to convert his advantage properly and ended up with 4 points/5 games. Since Jason won

his game against Jack, a three way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place occurred. Jack Cheng, Jason Cao and Tanraj Sohal were pronounced the 2012 BC Junior (Co-) Champions.



**Tanraj Sohal**

On computer tie break, Jack Cheng won the honour of qualifying to play in the 2013 BC Closed Championship.

Throughout this year's BC Junior Championship, the players had to be sharp and alert as there were many up and coming juniors wanting to upset much higher rated players. In addition, several equally strong players were battling each other under intense time pressure to emerge victorious. The results (a 3 way tie for the championship) just prove that the BC Junior Chess community is flourishing with its young crop of juniors and is continuing to be stronger every day.



**BC Junior Championship Plaque**

[Full standings: http://chess.ca/crosstable?tournament\\_check\\_number=201212006&key=121215](http://chess.ca/crosstable?tournament_check_number=201212006&key=121215)

All pictures in this article were sent in by the author



## History in the Making: 2013 BC Senior Chess Championship

by Victoria Jung-Doknjas



### Game Annotation by John Doknjas

As we surveyed the players who together made up this year's record breaking attendance at the Langley Club Labour Day Open, CFC Ratings Auditor, Paul Leblanc, who is an active player in both Canada and the U.S., remarked, "Eighty percent of the competitive players in North America seem to be under 20 or over 50. Look around the room next time you are in a tournament and you'll see what I mean." Paul's comments stuck in my mind. I reflected on the number of youth events available provincially, nationally, and at the world level and thought, there are ample opportunities for Canadian Youth Players to hone their chess playing skills monthly and annually playing with their peers at prestigious youth events, like the BC Junior Championship, the BC Youth Chess Championships, the Canadian Chess Challenge, the Canadian Junior Championship, the World Junior Championships, the Canadian Youth Chess Championships, and the World Youth Chess Championships - to name just a few. Well, that takes care of the "under 20" group; but, what about the "over 50" segment?

Sure, there are the weekend Swiss tournaments and the bigger annual tournaments. In BC, there are the Grand Pacific Open, the Keres Memorial, the BC Open, the aforementioned Langley Club Labour Day Open, etc. – all of which are open to ALL players both young and old. But, are there events specifically geared to the "over 50" group? There is the Canadian Seniors Chess Championship that has been held annually in Ontario for a number of years now. This Championship leads to the World Senior Chess Championships, which is also an annual event. But what about in BC?

After a few inquiries, I realized that there has never been a BC Senior Chess Championship – ever! Seniors represent one of the largest groups of competitive players and yet, there has never been a BC tournament that focussed on determining a provincial champion from this group – until now...

When our boys started getting stronger, we entered them in adult tournaments where they would often be paired up with seniors. Win, lose, or draw, the seniors would always be very gracious and kind to our boys. Whether the seniors knew it or not, they were giving

back to the chess community by playing up-and-coming juniors and helping them learn and get stronger, through their play, their encouragement, and their sportsmanship. We needed to recognize these seniors and their contribution to the great game of chess, so we decided to do this via a championship tournament dedicated solely to their group; and thus, the 2013 BC Senior Chess Championship was created.

Now, when I say, "we", I mean the Organizing Team of Paul Leblanc, Joe Roback, myself (Victoria Jung-Doknjas). Paul is one of the most active organizers in BC. He has organized or been part of the Organizing Committee for all the major chess events in BC, including the BC Open, the Paul Keres Memorial, the Grand Pacific Open, where last year, none other than super-GM Hikaru Nakamura was featured; as well as last summer's Canadian Open, which featured newly minted-GM Eric Hansen and IM Richard Wang. Paul personally contacted each senior player, and many, many more, to ensure that we had a great turnout; which meant that this event would indeed happen. Joe Roback has been the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Chess Club President since 2008 and has also organized a number of active tournaments in BC. Joe was not only on our Organization Committee, but he also was the Tournament Director for the event. He was responsible for securing the tournament venue at SFU, and literally, without Joe, the 2013 BC Senior Chess Championship would not have happened.

After all that planning and prep, we were ready to have a GREAT tournament; and a GREAT tournament we did have!



**Group Photo of BC Senior Players, Organizers, and TD. Note missing from photo the 2013 BC Senior Champion (Eugenio Alonso Campos).**

Fourteen BC Senior Players aged 60 years or better signed up to play 5 rounds of chess at the first ever BC Senior Chess Championship. Among the pool of players were former BC Champion NM Brian McLaren, Canadian Armed Forces Champion Paul Leblanc, and former Langley Chess Club Champions Hugh Long and Eugenio Alonso Campos. Note that currently, the open section of the World Senior Chess Championships requires players be 60 years or better. Starting next year,

2014, FIDE is lowering the age requirement for the open section to 50 years or better. We followed their age requirement accordingly, as one of the main goals of our tournament was to determine the 2013 BC Senior Chess Champion and to encourage our BC Senior Champion to compete at the Canadian Seniors Chess Championship, which leads to the World Senior Chess Championship.

Round 1 produced an upset that helped to shape the final results of this championship. Philip Harris defeated the highest rated player, NM Brian McLaren, on board #1. This pitted Philip against the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rated player, Darko Dimitrijevic in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Darko won this game as well as his next one and entered into Round 4 as the only player with a perfect 3 pts/3 games. Darko then played Eugenio Alonso Campos, who took a bye on Round 1. Alonso won this game, which set up an interesting final round for the BC Senior Championship title. But before we get to that...

Challenging for U1800 first place trophy, Philip Harris continued to play strong and in the final round was paired with Paul Leblanc. Their game ended in a draw, which gave Philip 3 pts/5 games, with his only loss to Darko. The other players in contention for U1800 first or second place trophies were paired together in the final round: Manuel Omana Escandor and Brian Sullivan. Manuel won and also ended up with 3 pts/5 games, but due to the tie break, Philip Harris won the first place U1800 trophy and Manuel Omana Escandor won the second place U1800 trophy – both split the prize money for first place (\$45 each).



Trophy winners from right to left: Manuel Omana Escandor (U1800 - 2nd place), Darko Dimitrijevic (Championship - 2nd Place), Eugenio Alonso Campos (BC Senior Champion), and Philip Harris (U1800 - 1st Place).

For those vying for the Championship title, in Round 5, Alonso with 3.5pts/4 games was paired on board 1 with the higher rated Brian McLaren, who had 3pts/4 games. Darko with 3pts/4 games was playing Neil Cruden. The championship was still up for grabs. On board 2, Darko and Neil played an interesting game that ended up with Darko needing to know how to mate with a Bishop + Knight vs. a lone King. A small crowd

gathered around board 2 and there were a couple of smirks as people watched the game. For myself, I have often seen children practicing mating with 2 minor pieces vs. a King; and often wonder why they would *waste* so much time and effort on an endgame that very, very rarely occurs. Well, that day, watching board 2 playing out this type of endgame, answered my question. Darko moved very quickly and confidently; and it was obvious to all watching that he knew *exactly* how to mate with a K+B+N vs. a lone King. Pure technique in action! Darko won and ended up with 4pts/5 games and now joined the rest of us waiting to see the results of board 1 and who would win the championship.

Board 1 also produced a very entertaining game. After an unorthodox opening, Alonso gained a development lead but his pieces weren't on the best squares. However, he was soon able to take control of the centre which gave his already developed pieces excellent posts. Brian decided to muddy up the waters by giving up 2 minor pieces for a Rook and 2 centre pawns. Alonso skillfully used his 2 minor pieces and Rook to take control of the game again and then slowly increased his advantage. Eventually, Alonso won on time.

Congratulations to **Eugenio Alonso Campos** our 2013 BC Senior Chess Champion! Alonso won the 2013 BC Senior Chess Championship trophy, \$140 cash prize, the right to be the official BC representative at the 2013 Canadian Seniors Chess Championship + entry fee, and a prestigious place in history as the first ever BC Senior Chess Champion.



2013 BC Senior Chess Champion, Eugenio Alonso Campos, with Organizers (Victoria Jung-Doknjias, Joe Roback, and Paul Leblanc).

Darko Dimitrijevic also had an outstanding tournament, losing only to the champion, with a 4pts/5 game record. Darko took home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place BC Senior Championship trophy.

Below are the key games from the tournament, and in order to give these games their due respect, I have enlisted expert player, John Doknjias, to provide his analysis of them.

**Harris, Phillip (1760) - McLaren, Brian (2174) [A00]**

BC Senior Championship 2013 (1), 11.01.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 4.♙f3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗b4 6.e4 b5  
7.♗e2 ♘f6 8.♞c2 ♗b7 9.0-0 a6 10.♞d1

Supporting the d4 pawn so that Nf3 can jump to e5, leading an attack. This move also prepares d5, if White wishes to play that move.

10...h6 11.♗e5 0-0 12.♗e3 ♘bd7 13.f4 ♞c7 14.♗f3  
♗xc3 15.♞xc3

15.bxc3 Strengthening the centre so that ...c5 cannot get rid of White's pawn on d4.

15...c5 16.♗xd7 ♗xd7 17.b3 cxd4 18.♗xd4 f6 19.g3?

19.bxc4 bxc4 20.♗f2 This doesn't allow ...e5 to come with tempo. White has the two Bishops, control of the d-file, and c4 is isolated. However, c4 is also passed, and Black is still up a pawn. The position seems dynamically balanced.



19...♞fc8?

19...e5! 20.♗c3 exf4 21.♗xf4 (21.gxf4 ♗c5) 21...♗e5

20.♞ac1 ♗c5 21.bxc4 ♗xa4?!

21...bxa4 22.♞e3 e5

22.♞a3

Now White is without many difficulties.

22...♗c6 23.cxb5 axb5 24.e5!

A nice blow in the centre.

24...♞b7 25.♗xc6 ♞xc6



26.exf6?

26.♞xc6 ♞xc6 27.exf6±

26...♞xc1?

26...♗c3!

27.♞xc1 gxf6 28.♗xf6 ♞f7 29.♗e5 ♞e8 30.♞c7 ♞g6  
31.♞d7 ♗f8 32.♞g7 ♞b1+ 33.♗g2 ♞e4+ 34.♗f2

1-0

**Kosinski, George (1840) - Escandor, Manuel (1641) [A20]**

BC Senior Championship 2013 (1), 14.01.2013



1.e4 e5 2.g3 ♗f6 3.♗g2 ♗c5 4.♗f3 ♗c6 5.0-0 0-0  
6.♗xe5!?

This alters the pawn structure.

6...♗xe5 7.d4 ♗xd4 8.♞xd4 ♞e8 9.♗c3 ♗c6 10.♞d2  
d6 11.e4 ♞b8 12.h3 ♗e5 13.f4?!

Although this quickly expands in the centre and pushes Black's Knight to the Q-side, a pawn seems to be too high of a price. 13.♞d4 And White seems to be in control.

13...♗xc4 14.♞d4 ♗b6 15.b3 h6 16.♗b2 ♗d7 17.e5  
dxe5 18.fxe5 ♗h7 19.♗e4 ♗e6?!

Missing a chance to exchange Queens. 19...♗b5!

20.♞f2 ♞xd4 21.♗xd4

20.♞f2 ♞e7 21.♗c5 c6 22.♗e4 ♗g5 23.♗d6



23...♞f8?!

This keeps Black on the defensive. 23...♗xh3! 24.♗xc8  
♞xc8 25.♗c1 ♗xg2 26.♗xg2 ♗d7=

24.g4 f6 25.♗f5 ♗xf5 26.exf6 gxf6 27.♞xf5 ♗d7  
28.♞ae1 ♞g7 29.h4 ♗h7 30.♗e4?!

30.♞h5! ♞f7 31.♗c1 ♗hf8 32.♗xh6

30...♞f7 31.♗d3 ♗b6 32.♞e3 ♗d5 33.♞g3 ♞f8  
34.♞g6+ ♞g7 35.g5 hxg5 36.hxg5 ♞xg6 37.♗xg6

Notation was unreadable from this point on.

1/2-1/2

**Dimitrijevic, Darko (2019) - Campos, Eugenio Alonso (1862) [A00]**

BC Senior Championship 2013 (4), 13.01.2013

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗f6 3.♞e2 d6 4.g3 ♗c6 5.♗g2 ♗g4 6.c3

♙e7 7.d3 0-0 8.h3 ♘h5 9.g4 ♙g6 10.♖h4!

A good move, since the Knight is heading for the ideal outpost, f5.

10...d5

10...♗xg4?? 11.♗xg6 hxg6 12.hxg4

11.♗f5 dxe4 12.dxe4 ♖e8 13.♙e3 ♙xf5 14.gxf5 ♗d7

15.♗d2 ♖ad8 16.0-0-0 ♗c8 17.h4 ♗a5 18.h5 h6

19.♖dg1 ♗h7 20.♙f3 b6 21.♖g3 ♖g8



22.b4?

This gives Black the counterplay on the Queenside that he desperately needs. 22.♖hg1

22...♗b7 23.♗c4 ♙d6 24.♖g6?!

This aims to win a pawn by playing Bxh6. However, White is ignoring the fact that Black has counterplay now.

24...b5

24...fxg6

25.♗xd6 ♗xd6 26.♙xh6 ♗a6 27.♗b1 ♗c4?!

27...♗a3 28.♙c1 ♗xc3 29.♗e3 ♗xc3 30.♙xe3 ♗dxc4

28.♙c1 ♖h8?!

28...c5 29.h6 fxg6

29.♖g5 ♗d6 30.♖hg1 ♖hg8 31.h6 g6 32.fxg6+ fxg6

33.♖5g3 a5 34.a3

34.bxa5

34...axb4



35.axb4??

This gives Black winning play on the a-file. 35.cxb4

35...c5?

35...♖a8! 36.♙b2 ♗a6 37.♗c1 ♗a2+

36.♖d1 ♗e7 37.♖xd8 ♖xd8 38.♗a2?

White should trade off his b-pawn as Black is

attacking it. It is very hard for White to keep defending his pawn. 38.bxc5

38...cxb4 39.♙g5 bxc3-+ 40.♙xf6 ♗xf6 41.♗a7+ ♗h8

42.♙e2 ♗d2+ 43.♗c1 b4 44.♗b7 b3 45.♖xc3 ♗f8

46.♗b2 ♖a8 47.♗g7+ ♗xg7 48.hxg7+ ♗xg7 49.♖xb3

♗xb3 50.♗xb3 ♗f6 51.♙g4 ♗g5 52.f3 ♗f4 53.♗c4

♖d8 54.♗c5 g5 55.♗c4 ♖d1 56.♗c5 ♖d3

0-1

Cruden, Neil (1849) - Dimitrivic, Darko (2019) [A00]

BC Senior Championship 2013 (5), 13.01.2013



1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 ♗c6 6.♙e2 ♗f6 7.0-0 ♙e7 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.♙b5?!

Since White has already played his Bishop to e2, he wastes a move playing it to b5. And besides, the only thing the Bishop can do on b5 is take on c6. Taking on c6, however, would make d5 not isolated anymore.

9...0-0 10.♙g5 ♙e7 11.♗bd2 a6 12.♙a4 h6 13.♙h4 ♙g4 14.h3 ♙h5 15.♖e1 g5!? 16.♙g3 b5!? 17.♙c2 d4

The point of Black playing 15...g5 and 16...b5: Now Black can play d4 since White's Bishops cannot attack Black's Knights.

18.cxd4 ♗xd4 19.♙e5 ♗xc2 20.♗xc2 ♖c8 21.♗b3 ♙g6

22.♖ac1 ♙c5 23.♗d1 ♗b6 24.♖xc5!

Getting rid of Black's two Bishops.

24...♖xc5 25.♙d4 ♗d6 26.♙xc5 ♗xc5= 27.♗b3 ♗c7

28.♗d4 ♗d8 29.♖d1 ♗xd4 30.♖xd4 ♖a8 31.♗e5 ♙f5



32.g4

32.♖d6! ♙e6 33.♗c5 ♗e8 34.♖b6 ♙xa2 35.♗xa6 White is slightly better.

32...♙e6 33.♗c6 ♗g7 34.♖d8 ♖xd8 35.♗xd8 ♙d5

36.♗c5 a5 37.a3 h5 38.gxh5 ♗xh5 39.♗db7! a4

Now White's Knights can occupy b4.

40. ♖d6 ♙c6 41. ♜d3 ♜f6 42. ♜b4 ♙d7 43. ♜h2 ♜f4  
44. ♜e4+ ♜g6 45. ♜g3 ♙xh3 46. ♜c2 ♙f5 47. f3 ♜d3  
48. ♜d4 ♙d7 49. ♜d6 ♜xb2 50. ♜6xb5 ♜c4 51. f4 f5  
52. fxg5 ♜xg5



53. ♜xf5??

53. ♜f3 Black probably has slim chances of winning the game here.

53... ♙xb5 54. ♜d4 ♜xa3 55. ♜e6+ ♜f6 56. ♜c5 ♜c4  
57. ♜xa4 ♙xa4 58. ♜f4 ♙c2!

Creating a "box". Black stops White's King from escaping to e4, e3, d2, or d1.

59. ♜f3 ♜f5 60. ♜e2 ♜f4 61. ♜f2 ♙d1 62. ♜e1 ♙g4

The Black Bishop gives up control of d3 for control of e2. Black is slowly making the box smaller.

63. ♜f2 ♙f3 64. ♜f1 ♜e3

Now all Black has to do is push White to h1.

65. ♜e1 ♜e5 66. ♜f1 ♜g4 67. ♜g1 ♜f2 68. ♜h2 ♜f4  
69. ♜g1 ♜g3 70. ♜f1 ♜d3 71. ♜g1 ♙e2 72. ♜h1 ♜f4  
73. ♜g1 ♜h3+ 74. ♜h1 ♙f3#

0-1

Campos, Alonso (1862) - McLaren, Brian (2174)  
[A00]

BC Senior Championship 2013 (5), 13.01.2013



1. d4 d5 2. ♜d2 ♜f6 3. ♜gf3 ♙f5 4. ♜h4 ♙c8 5. e3 g6  
6. ♙e2 ♙g7 7. 0-0 ♜e4!?

This changes the pawn structure. Although it would gain space since he would have a pawn on e4, White's strong d4 pawn is now unopposed.

8. ♜xe4 dxe4 9. g3 ♜c6 10. c3 ♙h3 11. ♙e1 ♙d7 12. b4  
h5 13. f4 exf3

Black probably shouldn't take on f3 since it lets White's centre pawns move forward. However, since Black needed to win, he should play this as it offers some play for him.

14. ♙xf3 a6 15. e4!

White needs to gain control of the centre now.



15... ♜xd4!

A nice counter-strike, breaking up White's centre.

16. cxd4 ♙xd4+ 17. ♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 18. ♙e3 ♙xa1  
19. ♙xa1 0-0-0 20. ♙e2 ♙g4 21. ♜f3 f6 22. h4!

Stopping Black from obtaining counterplay with ...g5

22... ♙d7 23. a4 ♙c6 24. ♜d2



24... b5?

A bit too committing, as now Black has weaknesses on the Queen-side that White can attack.

25. axb5 ♙xb5 26. ♜c4 ♜d7 27. ♜f2 ♜e6 28. ♜a5 ♜f7  
29. ♜b7 ♙b8 30. ♙xb5 axb5 31. ♜a5 ♙a8 32. ♙c1

White is in control of the position. Since Black's pawns on the ♙-side are fairly weak, Black's only advantage is his extra pawn on the ♜-side. However, it is hard to use this extra pawn.

32... ♙hc8 33. ♙c6!

Now Black is paralyzed.

33... e5 34. ♜e2 ♙e8 35. ♙xc7+ ♙e7 36. ♙c5 ♙d7 37. ♙xb5

Now White has the extra pawn on the Queen-side. The rest is fairly simple.

37... ♙ad8 38. ♙b6 ♙d1 39. ♙b7+ ♜e6 40. ♜b3 ♙b1  
41. ♙b6+ ♜f7 42. ♙b7+ ♜g8 43. ♜d2 ♙b2 44. b5 f5  
45. b6 f4 46. gxf4 exf4 47. ♙xf4 ♙d4 48. ♜e1 ♙db4  
49. ♙e3 ♙b5 50. ♜d1 ♙a2 51. ♙c7

Black lost on time.

1-0

At the onset, all three of the Organizers, Paul, Joe, and Victoria, were of the same mindset to make this inaugural BC Senior Championship a fondly memorable one. Even though we were on a very tight budget, with funding and support from our sponsors, the BC Chess Federation and SFU Chess Club, we were able to lay the ground work for a competitive, yet friendly, tournament that offered beautiful trophies for the Champion, Runner Up, U1800 – 1<sup>st</sup> place, and U1800 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place; as well as cash prizes for the Champion and U1800 – 1<sup>st</sup> place. We provide nice little extras like coffee, a fruit tray, and dessert trays for all the rounds.



**The tournament hall**

And on Round 4, each of the BC Senior Players were given a commemorative group photos and high quality "Thank You" chocolates from our other sponsor, Charlie's Chocolate Factory.



**Picture of the Group Photo Keepsake and two Charlie's Chocolate Factory's "Thank You" chocolates that each Player found at their board on Round 4.**

We also knew that it was important for the players to play; so, we enlisted an expert US player, Dr. Cronin Vining, to be our resident house player, should we have an odd number for any round. Most importantly, we recognized what players valued. We knew that they could go to other events in BC or the States if all they wanted to win was \$\$; but, our BC Senior Championship was special and the social aspect was

also important. The trophies, and the honour that came with winning this 2013 BC Senior Chess Championship, mattered as much as playing with peers and friends.

Full tournament results can be found at:

[http://www.chess.ca/crosstable?tournament\\_check\\_number=201301014&key=130128](http://www.chess.ca/crosstable?tournament_check_number=201301014&key=130128)

More photos from the BC Senior Chess Championship 2013 can be found at:

[www.word-press.cvining.com/photo-gallery/](http://www.word-press.cvining.com/photo-gallery/)



*Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess*

**By Bobby Fischer, Stuart Margulies, Don Mosenfelder**

This book is essentially a teaching machine. The way a teaching machine works is: It asks you a question. If you give the right answer, it goes on to the next question. If you give the wrong answer, it tells you why the answer is wrong and tells you to go back and try again. This is called "programmed learning". The real authors were experts and authorities in the field of programmed learning. Bobby Fischer lent his name to the project. Stuart Margulies is a chess master and also a recognized authority on programmed learning. He is a widely published author of more than 40 books, all in the field of programmed learning, especially in learning how to read. For example, one of his books is "Critical reading for proficiency 1 : introductory level". Donn Mosenfelder is not a known or recognized chess player, but he was the owner of the company that developed and designed this book. He has written more than 25 books, almost all on basic reading, writing and math.

<http://astore.amazon.ca/chesfedeofcan-20/detail/0553263153>

## From Greece—with Success

By IM Leon  
Piasetski



I had my best result in recent years at the World Senior championship in Kamena Vourla, Greece, but it didn't look at all promising at the start. I arrived in Europe on Oct. 12 and played in 2 tournaments, Unive and Sautron, to warm up but lost nearly 10 rating points. Then I showed up a few days early in Kamena Vourla but caught a virus when the weather turned abruptly cool.

My first round opponent was an older Russian A-player who played almost instantly and quite strongly. My flu forced me to run to the toilet in another building for tissue paper but it was cold and windy outside (by the way, it eventually rained 10 days straight!).

Furthermore, we were situated right next to the exit and people were constantly coming and going while leaving the door open for cold air to enter. Besides that they were talking loudly outside the door !

In addition, my opponent had a habit of throwing his piece on the board where it often landed anywhere but the centre of the square. Then he started talking to me in Russian which I don't understand at all. After a few tries he spoke to the arbiter who then explained his problem. He claimed I was moving his piece on his time and didn't say j'adoube. However, I actually moved the piece on my time and did say j'adoube ! The arbiter stayed next to us for the rest of the game.



Under these trying circumstances I tried to play quickly but still ran into time pressure and then made a serious mistake. After the first time control I was a pawn down in a queen ending. With precise play my opponent

could've won fairly quickly but instead, inexplicably, he allowed a threefold repetition which I claimed.

However, my opponent kept insisting there was no repetition until the arbiter finally showed it to him. After the game I had a horrible headache which lasted almost all night ...

My next two games were relatively uneventful. I won the first rather easily and then wisely accepted a draw in the second because I was still feeling a bit sick and tired. In the 4<sup>th</sup> round I faced a player from Kazakhstan who outplayed me and was completely winning after move 20. I played quickly to end the misery and he responded nearly instantly. He was still winning until he allowed a tactic and then could've saved a draw but got mated instead. It was quite a swindle and it reminded me of my youth - ok, I didn't win every game like that back then but nowadays I'm usually the one falling into traps !



**Piasetski, Leon - Rakhimberdeyev, Atalyk [A26]**

World Senior, 16.11.2012

**34...♖a6??**

Black could win most easily with 34...♙xf4 35.♖xf4 ♖xd3 36.♖f6+ ♔g8 37.♖e1 ♖d4

**35.♙e6! ♙xf4?**

Now Black can save the game by retreating 35...♖aa8 36.♙xe5+ ♖xc5 37.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 38.♖xf7+ ♔g8 when White has nothing better than perpetual check.

**36.♖xf4 ♖e5 37.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 38.♖xf7+ ♔g8 39.♖xb7+ ♔f8 40.♖f1+ ♔e8 41.♖b8+**

and mates next with ♖f7.

**1-0**

After this game I started to feel lucky and that my chances to succeed were better than normal. From this point on I only played against IMs and Gms and scored +2 with the IMs and an even score against the GMs. I felt fortunate that Van Riemsdijk missed a strong move in the opening

**Van Riemsdijk, Herman - Piasetski, Leon [B06]**

World Senior, 18.11.2012

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.♘c3 d6 4.g3 ♘c6 5.d5 ♘b8 6.♙g2 e5 7.dxe6 fxe6 8.h4 h6 9.♙e3 ♘c6 10.h5**

White could play more conservatively with 10.♘ge2 but probably felt he already had a big advantage.

**10...g5 11.f4 gxf4 12.gxf4 e5?**

Here I should capture the knight with 12...♙xc3+ to damage White's pawn structure. The bishop looks fine right now but it won't have much of a future after it gets blocked in by the pawn on e5.

**13.f5 ♖d4****14.♗d5?**

Instead 14.♗f3 when White will eliminate Black's most dangerous piece and generate threats on the g-file.

**14...c6 15.♙xd4?!****15.♗b4**

**15...cxd5 16.♙f2 dxe4 17.♖g4 ♗g5 18.♖xg5 hxg5 19.0-0-0 ♗e7 20.♙e3 ♙xf5 21.♙xg5+ ♙f6 22.♙e3 ♗h6** and Black won without much difficulty by invading on the g-file.

**0-1**

...and I managed to save endings with Rantanen and Kakageldyev. Also my game with Suba was an uphill struggle but he collapsed at the end.

**Suba, Mihai - Piasetski, Leon [A86]**

World Senior, 22.11.2012

**1.c4 f5 2.d4 ♗f6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.♗c3 0-0 6.♗h3 d6 7.d5 ♗a6 8.0-0 ♙d7 9.♗f4**

The last time I played Suba was in the Buenos Aires Olympiad – for those too young to remember this took place in 1978 :-)) – where I won a nice positional game with Black using the English defense. This time I chose the Leningrad Dutch since I was impressed by Friso Nijboer's games in Unive a month earlier. I was expecting the following typical line where Black swings the queen over to the kingside to generate attacking chances while White aims for a queenside expansion. 9.♖b1 c5 10.a3 ♗c7 11.b4 b6 12.♙b2 h6 13.♗f4 g5 14.♗d3 (14.♗g6 ♖f7 15.e4 fxe4 16.h4 ♙f5) 14...♖e8 15.♙a1 ♗a6 16.♖d2 ♖h5 17.h3?! f4 18.gxf4 (18.g4 ♙xg4) 18...♙xh3 19.♖c3 ♙xg2 20.♗xg2 ♖g4+ 21.♖g3 cxb4=

**9...♖b8?**

I hadn't faced the ♗h3–f4 plan previously and hadn't prepared anything special against it. Over the board I considered playing 9...c5 10.♗e6 ♙xe6 11.dxc6 ♖b8 12.♗d5 ♗c7 13.♗xc7 ♖xc7 14.a4 but felt White would have too strong a clamp after 14...♖c8 15.♙d5 ♗xd5

16.cxd5 However, I now think with 16...c4 17.♖c2 ♖c5 18.♗d1 ♖fc8 19.♙g5 ♖c7 White's attacking chances with h5xg6 are probably balanced by Black's counterplay against the b-pawn.

**10.♗b5 c5**

The move ♗b5 was not totally unexpected but I had simply rejected it as too materialistic. I hadn't yet realized that the knight could swing in 2 directions, i.e. d4 as well as a7! Now I didn't like the looks of 10...c6 11.♗d4 ♖c8 12.♗de6 ♖e8 13.♗xg7 ♗xg7 14.♙d2 when White seizes the long diagonal. However I would've had better chances with; 10...♗c5 11.♗d4 (11.♗xa7 ♖e8) 11...a5

**11.a4**

This looks reasonable but more precise was 11.♗xa7! ♗c7 12.♗b5 (12.♖b3 ♖a8 13.♗b5 (13.♖xb7? ♖b8) 13...♗xb5 14.cxb5 ♖a5 15.♗c6 ♖xb5 16.♖xb5 ♙xb5 17.♗xf8 ♗xf8 18.♖e1 ♙c4 19.a4 b6 20.♙d2 ♙xd5) 12...♗xb5 13.cxb5 ♖a5 (the exchange sac 13...♙xb5 14.♗e6 ♖b6 15.♗xf8 ♖xf8 16.a4 (16.♙g5 ♖a6) 16...♙c4 17.♖a3 ♗e4 18.♙xe4 fxe4 19.♖c3 ♙d4 20.♖xe4 ♖f7 21.♖f4 ♖xf4 22.gxf4 ♙xd5 23.c3 ♙b3 24.♖d3 ♙f6 25.a5 ♖b4 26.♙d2 ♖a4 27.♙c3 fails to impress ...) 14.a4 ♗e4 15.♙xe4 fxe4 16.♙d2 ♖b6 17.♙c3 ♙h6 and White has excellent chances to convert his material advantage.

**11...♗c7 12.♗xa7 g5 13.♗d3 ♖a8 14.♗b5 ♗xb5 15.cxb5 h6 16.♖a3**

Let's take a moment to assess this position. White has won a pawn and stands well. The rook on a3 is guarded and can swing over to defend the kingside if necessary. White has a space advantage in the centre and his extra pawn on the queen side is ready to advance. However, Black has a few trumps as well. The key observation is that the centre is static and Black's pawn chain guards the key squares d4 and e5. Furthermore, the f5/g5 pawn phalanx is mobile and f4 will generate real threats against White's king at any moment. Also, it's easy for Black to swing the queen to h5 where it threatens his majesty. White's major drawback is that the knight is going nowhere and needs to be recycled to a more active position but the solution is far from clear. Black's dilemma is that shifting the queen away from the queenside will allow White to advance his pawn more easily. On the other hand, it's still many moves away from queening ...

**16...♖e8 17.♗e1 ♖h5 18.♗c2**



I was pleased to see this knight move away from the kingside where it seemed necessary for defensive purposes. White had several choices which deserved attention. Probably best was 18. ♖c2 ♜g4 (or 18...f4 19.gxf4 gxf4 20. ♙xf4 ♙g4 21. ♜d3 ♙xe2 22. ♖e1 ♙f3 23. ♙xf3 ♖xf3 24. ♖xe7 with dangerous attacking chances, for example 24... ♜xd5?? 25. ♜xc5 ♖xf4 26. ♖xg7+) 19.h3 ♜f6 20. ♖c4 and White's position looks quite healthy. Instead both; 18. ♜f3 f4 and; 18.f4 ♜g4 19.h3 ♜f6 offer Black more chances.

### 18...f4!?

Safer was 18... ♜g4 19.h3 ♜e5 20.b4 ♖fc8 with a balanced position.

### 19.gxf4 gxf4 20. ♙xf4 ♜g4 21. ♙g3

The alternative try with [21. ♖h3 ♜xf2 (21... ♖g6 22.e3 ♜xe3 23. ♖xe3 (23. ♖g3 ♜xd1 24. ♖xg6 ♖xf4 25. ♖xd1 ♙f5) 23... ♖xf4 24. ♖xc7 ♙h3 25. ♜e3 ♖fxa4 26. ♙h1 ♙xg2+ 27. ♜xg2 ♙xb2 28. ♜f4 ♖g5 29. ♖g1 ♖a1 30.h4=) 22. ♖xh5 ♜xd1 23.b3 ♙g4 seems about equal.

### 21... ♙xb2 22. ♖a2 ♙g7 23. ♖b1 ♜e5?!

Black has traded his f–pawn for White's b–pawn to open up the position and de–activate White's rook. In addition, the bishop on g3 is biting on granite. White would like to get his knight to c4 and then advance his pawns on the queenside or in the centre. However, Black can impede White's plan with 23... ♖g5 24.f4 (or 24.h3 ♜f6 and next ♜h5 is irritating) 24... ♖g6 and if 25.e4 ♙h8 26.a5 ♖e8 when the queenside pawns are in danger. The plan I chose with ♜e5–g6–f4 takes too much time and gives White excellent chances again ...

### 24. ♜e3 ♜g6 25. ♙e4?

White missed his chance with either 25. ♖e4 ♙xb5 26. ♖b1 ♙a6 27. ♙f3 ♖g5 28.h4 ♖f6 29. ♙g4 ♙h8 30. ♙f5 ♜e5; or 25. ♙h1 ♜f4 26. ♙f3 ♖g5 27.a5 ♙h8

### 25... ♜f4



### 26. ♙xf4?

A very strange decision! White's kingside is safe because of this bishop and there was no compelling reason to trade it just now. Instead 26. ♖c2 ♜h3+ 27. ♙h1 (27. ♙g2 ♙d4) 27... ♙d4 28. ♖d3 (28. ♖b3 c4) 28... ♜f4 would probably have lead to a repetition.; By the way, 26. ♙f3 ♜h3+ 27. ♙g2 ♖xf3 28.exf3 ♜g5 looks unappealing.

### 26... ♖xf4 27. ♜g2 ♙e5

Perhaps White missed this ...

### 28. ♜xf4

Although this loses instantly it's hard to suggest a better try. For example, 28. ♙g6 ♖h3 or; 28.h4 ♖g4 29. ♙f3 ♖g7 30. ♙h1 ♖fxa4

### 28... ♙xf4

Now it's impossible to prevent mate so White resigned. After the game my opponent was quite upset since he felt he'd been winning all along. Although I think I was quite lucky in some moments, I also feel I chose a good way to keep the game alive and retain winning chances. One doesn't always manage this with GMs !

### 0-1

However, I also missed good chances, e.g. against Kakageldyev and Sveshnikov.



### Piaseski, Leon - Sveshnikov, Evgeny [A13]

World Senior, 23.11.2012

### 34.g4??

It's hard to believe I didn't even consider the exchange sac since it's one of my favourite solutions ! After 34. ♖xd5+ exd5 35. ♙f4 ♙e6 (35... d4 36. ♖xf5) 36. ♖c6+ ♙f7 37. ♖c5 White has excellent drawing chances.

### 34... ♖e3#

Ouch !

### 0-1



### Piaseski, Leon - Kakageldyev, Amanmurad [A35]

World Senior, 19.11.2012

### 25. ♖a3?

With a powerful knight on d5 and a bishop on the long diagonal White has excellent attacking chances. Unfortunately, the first move I saw was 25. Ra3 and it looked attractive. Since I was running short of time I stopped looking for a better move. However, White could bust open the queenside most effectively with

25.♖ab1 ♖d7 (25...♗a4 26.b4) 26.♙g2 ♗c8 27.b4 cxb4  
28.♖xb4 ♖c5 29.♖e7 which wins an exchange while  
maintaining a dominating position

**25...♗e8 26.♖b3 ♖c6?!**

26...♗a4

**27.♗d2?!**

27.♖b6 ♖xa5 28.b4

**27...♗e5 28.♙g2 ♖f7 29.♖e7 ♖b4 30.♖d5 ♖c6 31.♖b6  
♗dd7 32.b4?**

White stands much better after 32.♖f4 ♖c7 33.♖xh5  
gxh5 34.♗c3

**32...cxb4?**



**33.♖xb4?**

White wins with 33.♖xc6! bxc6 34.♖xb4 ♖c8 35.♖xc6  
♗c5 36.♖b1

**33...♖xb4 34.♖xb4 ♖xf6 35.♗d4 ♗xd4**

Neither of us saw 35...♖g4! 36.♗xc5 (36.♗xg4 ♗xe3+  
37.♖h1 ♖xf1+ 38.♙xf1 ♗e1 39.♖g1 ♖f7) 36...♖xf1+  
37.♖xf1 ♖xe5

**36.exd4 ♖g4 37.♙h3?**

White has better chances to survive after 37.♖xf7 ♖xf7  
38.♖b3 (38.c5 dxc5 39.dxc5 ♖e3 40.c6 ♖xg2 41.♖xg2  
♖c7) 38...♖e7 39.♙f3 ♖h6 (39...♖e3 40.♙xb7)



**37...♖xf1+**

37...♖e3

**38.♖xf1 ♖f7+ 39.♖e2 ♖f4?**

39...♖e7+

**40.♙xg4 ♖xg4 41.♖e3 ♖g5?! 42.d5 ♖g2 43.♖b1 ♖xh2**

**44.♖f1 ♖a2**

The last chance was 44...g5 45.♖f8+ ♖c7 46.♖f7+ ♖d8  
47.♖xb7 g4 48.♖f4 h5 but White probably has enough  
counterplay with 49.♖h7

**45.♖f8+ ♖c7 46.♖f7+ ♖c8 47.♖f8+ ♖d7 48.♖f7+ ♖e8  
49.♖xh7 ♖xa5 50.♖xb7 ♖a1**

[50...♖f8 51.♖d7

**51.♖g7 a5 52.♖xg6 ♖d7**

½-½

All in all I was happy with my play and, surprisingly,  
felt calm and concentrated most of the time. Perhaps  
with a little more consistency I can improve my result  
next time!



Canadian Maple Leaf was soaring proudly in Greece!

Altogether there were 5 players from Canada. I knew  
Bill DoubleDay would be going since we spoke at the  
Canadian open and, as the 2012 Canadian senior  
champion, Andre Zybura would also be playing.  
However, I was surprised to discover 2 more Canadians  
among the participants, Ian Finlay and Pierre Maheux.  
We formed a nice friendly group, meeting at mealtime  
and discussing chess and tourist related matters.

Before the penultimate round, I joined Ian and his wife  
on a brief tour to Thermopylae, which was only a 15  
minute drive away along the coast. Unfortunately, the  
weather was awful during most of the event (rain, rain  
and more rain!!) and, feeling unwell, I decided not to  
risk an excursion to Delphi but heard from Bill it was  
very interesting. In any case I'd like to return to Greece.  
Despite the economic crisis, I found the Greek people to  
be hospitable and friendly.

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## Dynamic Duo in Latin America

By FM Vladimir Pechenkin



GM-elect Eric Hansen has been the biggest Canadian newsmaker on the international chess scene this fall accomplishing quite a lot within a relatively short period of time. It is therefore natural for the CCN to keep on following his impressive performances abroad. After a dramatic Hollywood-style happy-end of the Continental championship, Eric played in two strong open tournaments in Latin America that will be the subject of this article.

The first tournament called the 2nd UNAM Open was held in Mexico, November 21-25. It was a part of a big chess festival featuring such stars as Magnus Carlsen and Judith Polgar. The open section attracted a pretty strong field of 163 players, including 15 GMs and 14 IMs. After a good start (2.5/3) Eric got into an accident in the fourth round blundering away a full point in a completely winning position. This unfortunate loss kept him away from the top boards until the end of the tournament, which must have been quite a disappointment to Eric. Nevertheless, with a traditionally strong finish (4/4) he managed to score a very respectable 7/9 sharing the places from 3rd to 6th.

Even though the tournament itself cannot be regarded as a success for the newest Canadian GM, there were positive signs. The following game from the eighth round suggests that hurricane "Hansen" that was going to hit Panama in just a few days had already gathered enough strength...

**Hansen, Eric (2539) - Dominguez Aguilar, Guillermo (2363) [B48]**

2nd UNAM Open Section I 2012 Mexico City (8.7), 25.11.2012

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 ♖c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♖d2 ♗f6 8.f3**

White opts for the English attack formation, one of the most aggressive and popular lines against the Taimanov Sicilian.

**8...♗b4 9.0-0-0 ♗e5 10.♗b3 0-0**

Black avoids a theoretical dispute in the main line but this game is hardly an endorsement for such an approach. The most principal continuation is 10...b5 Black needs to create his own play on the queenside as quickly as possible.

**11.♖b1**

This prophylactic move is useful in many Sicilian lines but may be a slight inaccuracy here. A more forceful

11.a3!? encouraging Black to immediately trade his important dark-squared bishop deserves attention. After 11...♗xc3 12.♖xc3 ♖xc3 13.bxc3 d5 14.♗d4 White has a long-term advantage due to his bishop pair and the weakness of the dark squares in the enemy camp.

**11...♗e7?!**

An unforced retreat that not only loses an important tempo but also takes the pressure off the white center. Instead, Black should try to utilize the fact that his b4-bishop has been left unchallenged. The central break 11...d5!? looks quite logical and was indeed played in Dominguez – Alsina, 2012, just two weeks prior to this game. After 12.♗d4 dxc4 13.♖f4 ♗d6 14.♗xe4 ♗xc4 15.♖xe4 Black could have continued 15...♗c6 with a viable position.

**12.f4!**

White takes advantage of the opponent's slow play and sets his kingside pawns in motion.

**12...♗c4 13.♗xc4 ♖xc4 14.e5 ♗g4**

No better is 14...♗e8 as was played in Acs – Kalinitschew, 2008. Black's position simply looks too depressing.

**15.♗d4**

White is getting ready to push his g- and h-pawns. Another interesting option is 15.♗b6!? emphasizing Black's development problems.

**15...f6**

Black has to undermine White's center to avoid being suffocated. A more desirable 15...d6? is tactically flawed: 16.exd6 ♗xd6 17.h3! ♗h6 18.♗xg7! ♗xf4 and here White can simply continue 19.♖f2 ♗xg7 20.♗d4 ♖c6 21.♖xf4 with a large advantage as the black king is too vulnerable.



**16.exf6**

An important moment of the game. White opens up files on the kingside but at the same time makes a concession by allowing the black knight to get back into play comfortably. An interesting alternative is 16.h3!? more or less forcing 16...fxe5 (If the knight retreats 16...♗h6 White obtains a much better version of the game after 17.exf6 ♗xf6 18.♗xf6 ♖xf6 19.♖hf1 The black pieces are awkwardly placed, while the white kingside pawns are ready to rush forward.) 17.hxg4 cxd4 18.♗xd4 White managed to open up the h-file

and has a simple plan of attacking h7. Play may continue 18...♙b4 19.♖c3 ♘xc3 20.bxc3 d5 21.♞h5 and the clouds are gathering around the black king.

**16...♜xf6 17.♞he1 b5**

Black finally initiates his queenside play.

**18.f5 ♟f7**

Such a passive move is clearly not in the spirit of the Sicilian defence. However, there is no direct refutation. The active 18...a5 looks like the best alternative even though White remains in the driver's seat after 19.fxc6 dxc6 20.♖g5 a4 21.♜c5

**19.g4!**



**19...exf5?**

As it often happens, Black loses his cool in a difficult position and goes down in flames. The point of White's previous is that 19...♜xg4? is bad because of a nice double attack 20.fxc6 dxc6 21.♖g2; The most tenacious is 19...♙b7 with a sample line 20.♜a5 ♖c7 21.♜xb7 ♖xb7 22.g5 ♜d5 23.♜xd5 ♖xd5 24.f6 ♙c5 25.♙xc5 ♖xc5 26.h4 White's attack looks formidable but Black managed to exchange a lot of pieces and retains some chances of saving the game.

**20.♜a5!**

Since the a5-square was left available, White utilizes it to deflect the queen with great effect.

**20...♖b4 21.♙xf6 gxf6**

21...♙xf6 22.♞e8+ ♟f8 23.♖d5+ picking up the rook on a8 illustrates White's idea.

**22.gxf5**

The opening of the g-file turns out to be lethal, the a5-knight can be neglected.

**22...♞b8 23.♞g1+ ♜f8 24.♖g2**

White's position is overwhelming, and he finishes his opponent off in style. The remaining moves hardly require any comments.

**24...♜e8 25.♖g8+ ♟f8 26.♖xh7 ♖xa5 27.♞de1 ♖b4 28.♞g7 ♜d8 29.♞gxe7 ♖g4 30.♜d5**

**1-0**

The 2nd UNAM Open was won by GM Bartłomiej Macieja who turned out to be too hot to handle. The Pole trail blazed the field scoring a remarkable 8.5/9. The only player who managed to hold him to a draw

was our very own FM Aman Hambleton. Aman came to Mexico looking for his third and final IM norm and was able to surpass all expectations with his outstanding performance. Despite being ranked only #20 on the starting list, he finished the tournament undefeated with 7/9, including 4/6 against GMs. This result not only secured the IM title for him but also was enough for his first GM norm. We heartily congratulate Aman on his accomplishment and wish him good luck in his GM quest.

**The following two games are annotated by Aman Hambleton**

**Hambleton, Aman (2404) - Macieja, Bartłomiej (2609) [E32]**

UNAM Open (3), 22.11.2012

I was paired as White against the top seed in the tournament on board 1. I had time to look at his games overnight, and came to be board both excited and prepared.

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6**

Not the move I was expecting. I don't think he has ever played this move before, though it easily transposes to other systems.

**3.♜c3 ♙b4 4.♖c2**

Already out of theory, I played the position with the same moves I use against the Nimzo-Indian. I hoped to reach a similar structure and return to familiar territory.

**4...♙b7 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.♖xc3 f5**

6...♜f6 7.♙g5 0-0 would have transposed to a main line of the Nimzo, something I would have welcomed since my preparation would be useful.

**7.♜f3 ♜f6**

The structure has been decided for the rest of the game. The struggle revolves around controlling the e4 square and whether or not Black can use his knights more actively than my bishops. In the long run, my bishops are an advantage.

**8.g3 c5 9.dxc5 bxc5 10.♙g2 0-0 11.0-0**



Both players logically castle their Kings to safety before proceeding in the center. 11.b4 The only way to stop my opponent's idea on the next move is to do this before castling. Black should obtain a reasonable position though, after 11...d6 12.0-0 ♜bd7 13.♞d1 ♜c4

14. ♖c2 ♜c7 15. ♘b2 ♝ab8=

### 11...a5!

11... ♖c6 12. b4 ♗e4 13. ♖b3 d6 14. ♘b2 ♜b6 is solid for Black. The x-ray pressure on the f2 pawn coupled with the strong ♗e4 gives Black the more active position. Neither of my bishops are doing anything useful.

### 12. ♘f4 a4

A principled manoeuvre. Black fixes White's queenside pawn majority and aims for ♗c6-a5, ♘a6, and eventually to control the b-file. White has to be active in the centre or face positional inferiority in any endgame.

### 13. ♝fd1 ♜a5 14. ♖xa5

14. ♖c3! ♝c8 15. ♝xd7!? ♗bxd7 16. ♖xc6+ ♖h8 17. ♗g5 ♝f8 18. ♘xb7 ♝ae8 19. ♗f7+ ♖g8 20. ♗h6+ ♖h8 21. ♗f7+ ♖g8 22. ♗h6+ is an interesting draw. I didn't think too hard about keeping the queens on the board but I probably should have. I was misevaluating the position, giving Black too much credit for his curious piece placement.

### 14...♝xa5 15. ♘c7

An inferior move, already headed towards a draw. It's difficult to find an advantage for White, since Black's structure is so solid, but... 15. ♝d6 is a better try e.g. 15... ♝a6 16. ♝xa6 ♗xa6 17. ♝d1 ♝c8 18. ♘d6 ♗e8 19. ♗e5 ♘xg2 20. ♖xg2± with advantage to White.

### 15...♝a6 16. ♗e5

The following liquidating sequence is more or less forced.

### 16... ♘xg2 17. ♖xg2 d5 18. cxd5 exd5 19. ♘xb8 ♝xb8 20. ♗d3

The idea of this move is to target the c5 pawn while constantly daring it to move forward. If Black were to play c4, the ♗ would move to b4 where it stops Black's b-file counterplay and also targets another weak pawn for Black on d5.



### 20...♝b5

Black correctly decides to defend the hanging pawn with his pieces. If for example 20...c4 then 21. ♗b4 ♝d6 22. ♝ac1 ♝c8 23. ♝d4 is comfortable and pressuring for White, although not winning.

### 21. ♝ac1

The idea of this move is still the same: to target the c5

pawn while constantly daring it to move forward. If Black were to play c4, the ♗ would move to b4 where it stops Black's b-file counterplay and also targets another weak pawn for Black on d5.

### 21...♝c6 22. ♝c2 g5 23. e3 ♖f8 24. ♗e5 ♝cb6 25. ♗d3 ♝c6

The position is difficult to find an advantage for either side. Also, if I'm not careful the black king will advance to the centre and aid in the protection of his pawns. This would free his pieces and allow him to create pressure. We decided to repeat the position.

### 26. ♗e5 ♝cb6 27. ♗d3 ♝c6 28. ♗e5 ...

and a draw was agreed. Macieja was the tournament leader at the time, and went on to win the tournament with a decisive 8.5/9. I remained the only player to take any points off him!

1/2-1/2



Playing black during round 1 action from the UNAM Open. I won with the French Defense (photo credit <http://amanhambleton.com/mexico-unam-open-photo-gallery/>)

## Hambleton, Aman (2404) - Gonzalez Zamora, Juan Carlos (2542) [A80]

UNAM Open (5), 23.11.2012

This was my biggest game of the tournament. My opponent was a hometown favourite, the top-rated Mexican GM in the tournament! Admittedly, I showed up rather unprepared since it was an afternoon round.

### 1. d4 f5

Certainly not what I expected! I quickly learned that the top players were not using their #1 repertoire choice against me, probably to avoid preparation.

### 2. ♗c3 ♗f6 3. ♘g5 d5 4. ♘xf6 exf6 5. e3 c6 6. ♘d3 ♘e6

Up until this move I was following a system I used recently against Vladimir Pechenkin in October. I was pleased with my opening position and since f5 caught me off guard I was eager to return to something familiar. 6... ♖a5 7. ♖f3 g6 8. a3 ♗a6 9. ♝a2!

### 7. ♗ge2 g6 8. h4 h5 9. ♗f4 ♘f7 10. ♖d2 ♘d6 11. 0-0 ♗d7 12. ♗ce2

I was optimistic about my position, since I planned to meet the g5 break with ♖h3 and I had easy play with my pawns on the queenside. I underestimated his position, because he was able to create threats quickly.

**12...♖b6 13.b3 ♜g8 14.a4 a6 15.♞fc1 ♕c8 16.c4 ♗e7**

Now Black has solidified his position again, and plans to recapture on d5 with a piece to maintain a solid pawn structure. It was at this point that I made an overly committal move, which I immediately regretted.



**17.b4!?**

17.c5 ♙c7 18.♗g3 hits the h5 pawn and momentarily halts Black's advances on the kingside. This leaves me free to pursue b4–b5 and open up the queenside.

**17...g5 18.♗h3 ♞d7 19.c5 ♙c7**

I became fearful of his advances against my king, especially with the g–file about to open and the ♞ on the c8–h3 diagonal attacking my ♗. I thought it best to move the ♗, but I should have continued on the queenside.

**20.♗f1**

20.hxg5 fxg5 21.b5! Now the g–file is closed and g4 is met by ♗f4 with a firm grip on the dark squares.

**20...f4 21.exf4 gxh4 22.♗eg1**

Threats of ..♞xg2. ♗xg2 ♞g4+ were always in the air with good compensation for Black.

**22...♙e6 23.♞e1 ♗f7 24.♞a3 ♙g4 25.♙c2 ♗f5**

25...a5!

**26.♗f3 a5**

My opponent chose the wrong move order. Stronger was 25. ... a5! to undermine my pawns on the queenside.

**27.♙xf5 ♙xf5 28.♗xh4 ♞ae8**

The position suddenly becomes uncomfortable for Black. Where did all that pressure go? Now 28...axb4 is well met by 29.♞ae3 and White's pressure is dangerous.

**29.♗xf5 ♞xf5 30.bxa5**

After this move Black is, surprisingly, barely holding on. The dust has settled and White stands two pawns to the good. White's ♞a3 is coming over to help on the e–file and trades look imminent. My opponent chose the best continuation.

**30...♞xe1+ 31.♞xe1 ♞e4 32.♞xe4 dxe4**



**33.f5!**

A very important move, a critical one if White wants to play for a win. Other moves allow Black to play ...♗e6 and blockade on d5. Black may even stand better if allowed to do that.

**33...♞d8**

This sparks a forced series of moves...

**34.♞b3 ♙xa5 35.♞xb7+ ♗e8 36.♗e2 ♞xd4 37.♗f4 ♞xa4 38.♗xh5 ♙c3 39.♗g7+ ♗f8 40.♗e6+ ♗e8 41.♗e3**

So I remain one pawn ahead, and with Black's king trapped on the back rank and each of my pieces placed more actively than their counterparts, I was looking for the win. I saw ideas of playing g4–g5 but it all seemed too risky with the e4 pawn...

**41...♙e5 42.♞g7**

42.g3 ♞c4 43.♞h7 ♙b2 44.♞h8+ ♗e7 45.♞c8+–

**42...♙b2 43.♞g4**

So I played to get rid of it! Objectively this is not the best plan, but it's the most natural. Black can still put up a lot of resistance though.

**43...♙c1+ 44.♗e2 ♗d7 45.♗d1 ♙b2 46.♗c2**

The bishop is running out of squares!

**46...♙e5 47.♗b3 e3**

A neat move, but one that I had calculated. I was happy to trade the e pawn for my f pawn, in order to make things simpler. It also frees my king which turns into a very active piece.

**48.♞g7+**

48.♗xa4?? exf2! 49.♞g7+ ♗c8 50.♞g8+ ♗b7 51.♞g7+ ♗a6+–

**48...♗c8 49.fxe3 ♞e4 50.g4 ♞xe3+ 51.♗a4 ♞e1**

**52.♗a5 ♞b1**

By advancing my king I have forced the black rook into a passive position where it's needed to stop my invasion via b6.

**53.♗a6 ♞b4 54.♞g8+ ♗d7 55.♞d8+ ♗e7 56.♞d3!**

The point of my play. The g4 pawn is now taboo because it allows my king entry via the b–file, and with the c6 pawn dropping Black's position starts to crumble.

**56...♞b8 57.♗a7 ♞b5 58.♞a3 ♗d7 59.♞a6 ♙c7**

Neither of us knew it, but Black actually has a forced draw here. It seems I got carried away with activating my king!

60.♖a3



60...♗e5

60...♕c8=

61.♖d3+ ♕e7 62.♕a6 ♖b8 63.♖e3

So I calmly retraced my steps and tried a different idea. ♖e3 threatens g5 and the pawns start to roll, so Black needs to move his Bishop.

63...♗b2 64.♖f4+

64.♖h3 ♖b4 65.♖h7+ ♕e8 66.♖c7! I had forgotten that the reason this plan didn't work before was because the Bishop was on e5. After 63...♗b2 this idea wins for White.

64...♕d7 65.♖e6 ♗e5 66.♖g6 ♗c7 67.♖xf6 ♖b5  
68.♖f7+ ♕d8

I was pleased with my calculation here. 68. ... ♕c8 to threaten mate on a5 is not possible which means Black has no threats. I should realize the position was fixed and just advance my pawns. Instead, I let my only way of stopping the mate out of my sight, and played a terrible blunder! 68...♕c8 69.♖e7+ ♕d7 70.♖xc6+ ♕xc6 71.♖xc7+ ♕xc7 72.♕xb5+-

69.♖f8?? ♕c8 70.♖xc7+

Forced, otherwise checkmate comes on a5.

70...♕xc7 71.g5 ♕d8

After this move my opponent confidently offered me a draw, feeling as though he'd survived the storm. I was certainly unimpressed with myself after such a blunder, but I wasn't giving up hope. I calculated ♖b1 to a draw, but ♕d8 I had not considered. I guess there was a reason why...

72.f6! ♕e8 73.♖e6 ♕f7 74.♖d8+ ♕g6 75.f7 ♕g7  
76.g6 ♖xc5

And Black is lost! ♖e6+ is unstoppable.

77.♖e6+ ♕xg6 78.f8♖ ♖e5 79.♖g7+ ♕f5 80.♖d4+ ♕e4 81.♖xc6

1-0

Although the game was a bit shaky, and with one big mistake, I'm pleased with how I converted the endgame. With this win I moved into shared 2nd place

in the tournament with 4.5/5 and also emerged victorious in what was a really tense match.

Shortly thereafter both Canadians travelled to Panama City to participate in the 2nd Panama Open. This tournament was a smaller one (80 players overall), yet the field was quite strong featuring 8 GMs and 12 IMs. GM-elect Hansen ranked 6th on the starting list, and this time he decided to take the bull by the proverbial horns right off the start.



*The invincible Canadian IM Eric Hansen; only one draw slipped his pockets!*

Taking advantage of the rating favorites' slip-ups, Eric rose to the top board by the fourth round and never relinquished the lead until the end of the tournament. His most impressive win came in round 6.

**Hansen, Eric (2539) - Marin, Mihail (2547) [C16]**  
2nd Panama Chess Open (6), 30.11.2012

I must admit that I have decided to annotate this game well before looking through the others. GM Mihail Marin is a popular chess author and theoretician, and it was very interesting for me to see how Eric would fare against him. The game surpassed my expectations as Eric managed not only to win convincingly but also to make an impression that the whole encounter was really a cat and mouse play.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♖c3 ♗b4 4.e5 b6

Black indicates his desire to trade off the light-squared bishops through a6. Given that this line has barely occurred in GM Marin's practice, I'd guess that he is testing it for his new book to be published soon.

5.a3 ♗f8 6.♗b5+

The purpose of this check is to keep the good light-squared bishop on the board. White's play in an earlier game Negi-Marin, 2012, was unconvincing: 6.♖f3 ♖e7 7.h4 h6 8.b4 c5 9.♗d3 ♖cc6 10.b5?! ♖xd4

11. ♖xd4 cxd4 12. ♗c2 a6 13. ♕b2 axb5 14. ♕xb5+ ♗d7  
15. ♖xd4 ♕c5 and Black was doing well.

### 6...c6

The idea of the check is revealed after a natural 6...♗d7  
White retreats the bishop 7. ♗d3 avoiding the trade.

7. ♗a4 ♗d7 8. ♗ce2 c5 9. ♗b3 c4

This move looks tempting but White is not discouraged  
by temporary inconveniences. 9...cxd4!? is a legitimate  
alternative.

10. ♗a2 b5 11. c3 a5 12. ♗f3 ♗c6 13. 0-0 ♗ge7 14. ♗b1

It's time to summarize the outcome of the opening  
battle. White provoked Black to seize a lot of space on  
the queenside but at a cost. Unlike most lines in the  
French, White's center is secured. Moreover, his light-  
squared bishop is comfortably placed on its best  
diagonal b1-h7.

14...♗c8

The knight is going to a4 but such a maneuver is slow.

15. ♗g3



15...g6?!

The weakening of the dark squares turns out to be too  
serious. 15...♗c7 appears to be necessary although it is  
understandable that Black didn't like 16. ♗h5 After  
16...g6 White can sacrifice a pawn 17. ♗f6+ ♗xf6  
18. exf6 ♗xf6 obtaining good long-term compensation.  
However, Black's defensive resources are not to be  
underestimated.

16. ♗g5 ♗b6

16...♗c7 is more circumspect.

17. h4

Since White has a pleasant advantage, this is a good  
practical decision. Nevertheless, White has an  
interesting tactical resource at his disposal after 17. ♗f3  
♗c7 exploiting the weakness of the dark squares as  
well as Black's underdevelopment: 18. ♗3e4! Black is  
obliged to accept the sacrifice 18...dxc4 19. ♗xc4 but  
then he has nothing better than 19...0-0-0 20. ♗g5 ♗e8  
21. ♗f6 ♗e7 22. ♗c4 Black's disorganized pieces cannot  
adequately defend against various threats. Granted,  
such a line appears to be unnecessarily committing for  
White.

17...♗e7 18. h5

Again, White has a nice tactical shot here: 18. ♗5e4  
when Black has to cover the g5-square immediately

ignoring everything else 18...h6 (18...dxe4? loses a lot  
of material to 19. ♗g5 f6 20. ♗xf6 ♗f7 21. ♗xh8)

19. ♗d6+ ♗d8 20. h5 g5 21. f4 Black's position is on a  
verge of collapsing.

18...0-0-0 19. ♗h3

White threatens to win an exchange.

19...♗e8

The only reasonable defence.

20. ♗f3 h6

Black finally covers the g5-square.

21. hxg6

White anticipates the following forced sequence that  
will allow him to improve his position on the kingside.

21...fxg6 22. ♗f6 ♗g8 23. ♗f4 g5 24. ♗fh5 ♗e7 25. ♗f3

White maintains the tension, which is a good practical  
decision. Grabbing a pawn 25. ♗xh6 isn't bad but after  
25...♗h8 26. ♗g6 ♗xg6 27. ♗xg6 ♗dg8 Black manages  
to trade off the queens and to relieve the pressure.

25...♗f8

Black intends to activate his light-squared bishop  
through e8 but this idea never materializes. Instead,  
25...♗f8 is better preparing for White's f2-f4.

26. ♗g4 ♗b7 27. ♗d2

This is an interesting moment in the game.



27...♗a4

Black seeks counterplay disregarding the risk entailed.  
27...a4 appears to be more logical. Black freezes the  
play on the queenside thus securing his king. However,  
Black would be left with no active possibilities of his  
own. White would then prepare the only pawn break  
(f2-f4) available to either side, e.g., 28. ♗e2 ♗a5  
29. ♗c2 ♗b3 30. ♗ac1 ♗c8 31. ♗c3 etc.

28. ♗h7

A typical maneuver forcing the black rook to a slightly  
worse square.

28...♗h8 29. ♗c2 ♗xb2

Clearly, an extremely risky move indicating that Black  
was too tired of defending passively and wanted to  
provoke a tactical crisis before the time control.

30. ♗fb1 ♗d3

30...♗xa3 can be met by 31. ♗c1 ♗d3 32. ♗xd3 ♗xc1  
33. ♗xc4 dxc4 34. ♗xc1 and Black's position has too



many holes.

**31. ♖xd3 cxd3 32. ♝xb5+ ♔a7 33. c4!**

An excellent breakthrough refuting Black's play.

**33... dxc4 34. ♞e4**

This natural move gives Black a break and a chance to organize the defence. Instead, 34. ♕c3 turns out to be crushing, e.g., 34... ♔a8 35. ♞ab1 ♞b8 36. d5 ♝xb5 37. ♞xb5 and Black has to give up a piece without improving his king's situation.

**34... ♞b8**

Black finds the toughest defence. It is imperative to prevent the white rooks from doubling on the b-file.

**35. a4!**



Now the rook trade is not an option for Black.

**35... ♖b4**

An interesting try is 35... ♞c8 White should open up more lines with 36. d5 exd5 37. ♞xd5 when his attack appears to be very strong. However, after 37... ♕e6 38. ♕c3+ ♔a6 39. ♞xb8 ♕xd5 40. ♞b6+ ♔a7 41. ♞xc6+ ♔a8 42. ♞xc8+ ♞xc8 Black manages to get the queens off the board and has serious counterplay in view of his passed pawns, despite material deficit.

**36. ♞xa5+ ♔b6 37. ♞c5!**

A very strong exchange sacrifice keeping the black king under pressure.

**37... ♕c6**

Accepting the sacrifice 37... ♕xc5 38. dxc5+ ♔a7 is the most stubborn defence. White is in a great shape but he still has got work to do after 39. ♞xc4 ♖c6

**38. a5+ ♔c7**

38... ♔a7 is the only practical chance. After 39. ♞xc6 ♖xc6 40. ♞xc6 ♞c8! Black's passed pawns require careful handling from White.

**39. ♞xc4 ♔d7 40. ♞xc6!**

White dispels Black's hopes of establishing a blockade on the light squares.

**40... ♖xc6 41. d5**

This breakthrough nails the win.

**41... exd5 42. ♞xd5+ ♔c7 43. ♞c1 ♞e8 44. ♖g7**

If the queen moves, the knight jump to e6 will be lethal.

**1-0**



The winners

Having taken a break in round 7, Eric then achieved a convincing victory against another strong GM, confidently suppressing all opponent's attempts to muddy the waters.

**Hansen, Eric (2539) - Bacallao Alonso, Yusnel (2580) [B51]**

2nd Panama Chess Open (8), 01.12.2012

**1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. ♕b5+**

The course of the game suggests that White was OK with a draw, in principle, while Black was playing for a win and felt obliged to complicate matters at any cost.

**3... ♖d7**

The first indicator of Black's aggressive intentions. 3... ♕d7 is more popular but at the same time less suitable for a player with the winning ambitions.

**4. c3 ♖gf6 5. ♞e2 a6 6. ♕a4 b5 7. ♕c2 e5 8. d4 ♕e7 9. 0-0 0-0**

After a sequence of fairly natural moves the game has transformed into a typical Ruy Lopez structure that Eric knows well.

**10. d5**



White releases the central tension at once, which appears to be Eric's favorite approach in Ruy Lopez.

**10... ♖h5**

I am inclined to regard this move it as the origin of Black's downfall, not because the move itself is bad but rather because it is associated with a dubious plan. Instead, Black should continue developing, e.g., 10... ♖b6 11. h3 ♕d7 with a normal position.

**11. a4 b4 12. a5**

A useful move causing Black some discomfort on the queenside. Now it is not so easy for him to complete development. After a neutral continuation, such as 12.♔e3 Black would play 12...a5 himself substantially improving his position on the queenside.

### 12...g6

Black continues with his plan that is typical for King's Indian structures. As we will see, however, it doesn't work well here because the white bishop is excellently placed on c2 rather than e2. An alternative is 12...♔f4 13.♕xf4 exf4 intending to take control of the dark squares. Play may continue 14.♖bd2 ♕f6 15.♗d3 ♔e5 16.♗xe5 ♕xe5 17.cxb4 cxb4 18.♗c4 Black's bishop pair does not compensate for his pawn weaknesses. White has an excellent knight on c4 and his position is to be preferred, overall.

### 13.♕h6 ♗g7

Black is determined to carry out f7–f5 regardless of the risk.

### 14.♗bd2

White develops smoothly and effortlessly, contrary to Black's convulsions.

### 14...f5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.♗c4

Black must now bring his queenside pieces into play but it is actually not so easy to do.

### 16...♖b8

The problem with a strategically desirable 16...♔f6 is that White can respond simply with 17.♗b6 ♖b8 18.cxb4 cxb4 19.♗xc8 ♗xc8 20.♕b3 Black is on a verge of losing as the light squares in his camp are desperately weak.

### 17.♖ad1

White has found good squares for all his minor pieces, and the time has come for him to improve the positions of his rooks. This looks very natural and is directed against Black's intended regrouping.

### 17...♖f6

Black understands the necessity of covering the sensitive squares in his camp (d6 and e5) and tries an alternative regrouping. The point is that 17...♔f6? is still bad because of 18.♗fxe5! dxe5 19.♗xc5 (attacking the rook on b8) 19...♖b7 20.d6 and White wins his piece back with an overwhelming position. In general, Black has to be on a lookout for this tactical operation at all times. Even if White doesn't win material as a result, the opening–up of the position will benefit him immensely.

### 18.♕xg7 ♖xg7 19.♗h4!

White makes use of the fact that the h4–square is available at the moment and correctly targets the weakest spot in the enemy's position, the f5–pawn. 19.♗g5 looks tempting. However, Black can cover his vulnerable light squares on the kingside by 19...♔f8 and then it's unclear for White how to proceed.



### 19...♔f8?

In this particular position the planned regrouping turns out to have a serious drawback. An immediate 19...e4 is necessary. The point is that now 20.♗h5 lacks punch. Black can defend the pawn with 20...♗f8 not fearing 21.♔e3? because 21...♔e5 would be very strong. (Instead, White should play 20.g3 securing the h4–knight, then organize a quick f2–f3.)

### 20.♗h5!

White ruthlessly gangs up on the f5–pawn, and suddenly Black has no adequate response. This is a typical idea in the King's Indian structures, and White was able to execute his plan very well.

### 20...♗g6

Black decides to sacrifice the pawn right away for some pieces activity but doesn't get any tangible compensation. After 20...e4 White increases the pressure by 21.♔e3 The only way to defend the f5–pawn is 21...♗d7 but then White can undermine Black's pawn chain by 22.f3! Black's prospects in the ensuing complications are very poor.; 20...f4 maintains material equality but looks like a positional surrender. After 21.♗b6 ♖h6 22.♗f5+ ♕xf5 23.♗xf5 White is in complete control.

### 21.♗xf5+ ♖h8 22.♗h4!

Precisely played. Black's counterplay is nipped in the bud.

### 22...♔f8

Here White has a wide choice of good continuations. He decides to go back to the idea of breaking through the center in a spectacular fashion.

### 23.♗f3 ♕d7



This allows the following elegant finish but Black doesn't have anything better.

## 24. ♖fxe5! ♕e8 25. ♖e2 dxe5 26. d6 bxc3

Relatively best is 26... ♕xd6 but after 27. ♖xd6 Black's position is hopeless as 27... ♗xd6 loses to 28. ♖xe5+ ♖f6 29. ♖xd6

## 27. ♖xe5

1-0

With a win in the last round Eric finished the tournament with a remarkable 8.5/9 score and a staggering FIDE rating performance of 2898. Hurricane "Hansen" swept over Panama City with devastating consequences to his competitors! The closest of those, GM Cordova and IM Prasca Sosa, managed just 7/9.

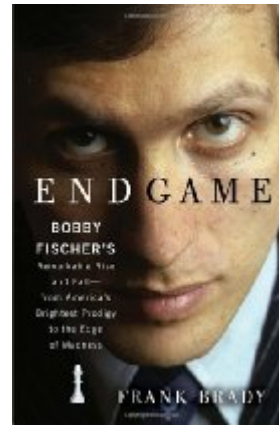
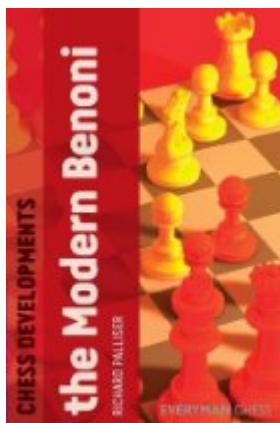


*The President of the Panamanian Chess Federation hands the first prize to its rightful owner: IM Eric Hansen from Canada scored 8.5/9 and a 2900 performance!*

Despite two losses, IM-elect Hambleton scored a respectable 6/9 and added a couple of GM scalps to his collection, including a win against the rating favorite of the tournament Quesada Perez. Such a result was sufficient for yet another (now redundant) IM norm solidifying Aman's grip on the IM title. The CCN will continue, where possible, to follow the progress of our young starts.

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## Canadians Abroad

It is hardly surprising that the very first edition of the new column will feature the very players who are the protagonists of the articles you have just read (in fact, this article could easily be a part of the column). Success breeds success, and our heroes kept on travelling in search of new conquests. This time their quest brought them to Europe where Eric Hansen and Aman Hambleton participated in a couple of tournaments.

For Aman, it started in Erfurt (Germany) where he participated in **Erfurt Schachfestival** - a typical European Christmas tournament featuring several 2500+ GMs and a number of IMs. In those tournament a strong start is a key to success, and Aman was unfortunate to draw his very first game against a 2025 opponent. He could have been jetlagged (as he had to play literally within 24 hours of his arrival at a new Continent) or under-motivated—but whatever it was, he had to play down for the rest of the tournament. Aman recovered well by beating three lower-rated opponents in a row - yet even that provided him with but a 2390 challenge in the 5th round. I presume, his loss to IM Seger Ruidiger was most unpleasant but Aman fought back once more and finished strongly with 2,5/3.



Photo credit [http://amanhambleton.com/erfurt-germany-schachfestival-photo-gallery/img\\_1871/](http://amanhambleton.com/erfurt-germany-schachfestival-photo-gallery/img_1871/)

His overall 6/8 result was enough to share the 1-9 places and almost keep his rating intact (-0.8 points). If I were Aman, I would probably recall Erfurt with mixed emotions - on the one hand, he hadn't met any strong opponents; on the other hand, he managed to place himself among the winners and obtain a prize to account

for it.

Erfurt's experience must have helped Aman when he participated in the **9 Open International de Vandoeuvre**. This time he managed a 2/2 confident start and was rewarded by a score of much stronger opponents. Aman was playing with confidence as he held against GMs Sanikidze and David and beat another GM, Malakhatko. Had he not lost against IM Collins from Ireland, his result would have been way better than sharing 5-12 with 6/9 - yet even that result allowed him to gain 10 rating points (which clearly indicates the strength of the opposition).

At the same time Eric was playing in a very strong **Schachfestival Basel** in Switzerland - and he was uncharacteristically struggling. For the first time in quite a while he didn't manage to beat a single titled opponent—and even lost to a FM with White. Amazingly, he still was within a shot of sharing first while entering the final round but the game against a strong GM Istratescu went wrong from the very beginning. Eric chose one of his secondary openings, remained passive for most of the game and never managed to release himself from the opponent's confident, vise-like grip

**Istratescu,A (2654) - Hansen,Eric (2568) [B00]**

Hilton Master Open 2013 Basel SUI (7.4), 05.01.2013

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.f3 e5 4.♗e2 ♘bd7 5.c4 ♙e7  
6.♘bc3 0-0 7.♙e3 c6 8.d5 ♗e8 9.♞d2 g6 10.0-0-0 c5  
11.♘b1 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.f4 a6 14.h3 ♘g7 15.g3 ♞b8  
16.♘c1 ♗h8 17.♙e2 ♞e8 18.g4 ♙h4 19.♞df1 e4



20.g5! ♞f7 21.♘d1 b5 22.♙f2 ♙xf2 23.♞xf2 ♘b6  
24.♘e3 bxc4 25.♙xc4 ♞a4 26.♞c3 ♞b4 27.♞c2 a5  
28.h4 ♘a4 29.♞xb4 axb4 30.h5 ♘b6 31.g6 ♞f6 32.h6  
♘e8 33.g7+ ♗g8 34.♘b3 ♘xc4 35.♘xc4 ♞g6 36.♘ba5  
♙a6 37.♞cc1 ♘c7 38.♘e3 ♞e8 39.♘c6 ♙b7 40.♘xb4  
♘b5 41.♘bc2 ♘d4 42.♞cd1

1-0

As a result, Istratescu proceeded to share the 1-4 places, while Eric remained around place 15 which was pretty close to his starting ranking.

Both Eric's result and placement in the traditional Groningen Festival were much more impressive: he scored a very respectable 6,5/9 which allowed him to share 4-6 places. Yet, the initial problem remained the same: a weak start. After 5 rounds Eric allowed 4 draws

to lower-rated opponents, and it took a very strong second half to climb almost all the way up and feature among the prize-winners.



Photo credit: <http://www.schaakstadgroningen.nl/>

Another Canadian participant in Groningen, Leon Piasetski, scored but 4/9 but his tournament path was the exact opposite of Eric's. Leon lost 4 games in a row towards the business end of the competition but not before he managed an extremely impressive win against a GM

### Piasetski, Leon - Brunello, Sabino [B38]

Groningen, 24.12.2012

This game was played on Christmas eve which happens to be my birthday. Normally players don't play well on such occasions but I managed to give myself a nice birthday gift!

1. d3 d6 2. c4 g6 3. d3 c3 4. e4 c5

I was a bit surprised when my opponent chose this move. At this point I expected a regular King's Indian with typical attacking chances for both sides. Perhaps this would have been a wiser choice when facing a weaker opponent, although I've had success on the White side in recent years.

5. d4 cxd4 6. dxd4 d6 7. f3 d6 8. e3 0-0 9. d2 d7 10. e2 c8 11. 0-0 de5 12. b3 de8 13. ead1

After the game my opponent told me that 13. f4 was best since 13. f4 d6? 14. exg4 exg4 15. f5 and the Black bishop is in trouble. So 13. ... d6 is forced when Black has wasted time with de5-c6. I wanted to develop all my pieces and reasoned that f5 would weaken Black's position in the center, especially the e6 square.

13...f5 14.exf5 gxf5 15.d5

Perhaps best now is 15. f4 d6 16. f3 f6 17. e3 but I wasn't sure about 15. ... d6.

15...d6

This stops d4-h5 ...

16. e5

This looks attractive but I later saw Houdini recommended 16. b4

16...d7 17. d4 dxf4 18. bxf4 f7



19. h4!

The bishop retreat avoids an exchange like 19. h1 d4 20. bxd4 d6 21. h4 dxg5 22. bxc5+ g7 when Black is fine and ready to start operations on the king-side.

19...b8 20. d2 f4 21. fe1

21. a5!?

21...e5 22. f1 h6 23. f2 h5

Suddenly, Black is threatening an attack beginning with f6-h6. While looking for a solution I noticed the tactic which occurred in the game. Yet White has an even stronger answer in a5, so Black should probably have played 23. ... b6.

24. d2 f6?



My opponent wanted to play 24...d6 but saw that 25. d5! b6 26. e5 dxe5 27. e1 or (27. bxd7 d8 28. bxd8+ dx8 29. e8d8+ f8 30. d3) 27...d8 28. e5 g6 29. d1 was better for White. However, the game would have remained tense and unpredictable after; 24...b6 25. d4 g5 As played White has an easy time since Black cannot organize an attack and has weaknesses to defend on the queenside.

25. e5! bxe5 26. d4

More enterprising was 26. e1 g5 27. e7

26...g5 27. bxf6 bxf6 28. d4 h1 29. e1

The alternative 29. c5 e8 seemed less clear.

29...b6 30. h1 e8

I was pleased to see this move instead of a5 since I could now clarify the position by creating a central pawn weakness on d6.

31. e4

However, more accurate was 31. d3

31...e5

Now the d6 pawn is a target.

32.♞e1 ♕f7 33.♞d1 a5 34.♭d3



34...♭e6

This knight manoeuvre looks attractive but Black also had an appealing alternative in 34...d5 when the critical reply is 35.♞e1 ♞e8 36.c5! bxc5 37.♞xa5 ♭a6 38.♭f2 (38.♭xc5 ♭xc5 39.♞xc5 e4=) 38...♭b4 39.♞xc5 ♞c7 40.♞xc7 ♞xc7 41.a4 with a little edge for White.

35.♭f2 ♭d4 36.♭e4 ♞e6 37.♭c3 ♞h6 38.♙d3

Black has managed to improve the position of his knight and even threatened ♭f5–e3. On the other hand, White stands better because he has no pawn weaknesses and can challenge the knight on d4.

38...♕f8 39.♭e2 ♭e6?



Black must exchange knights to stay in the game ...

40.♙f5! ♞d8 41.♙xe6 ♞xe6 42.♭c3 ♞c8 43.♞f2 ♞c5 44.♞h4

Now White has a huge advantage based on the weak kingside. Also, the bishop cannot prevent the knight joining in on the attack.

44...♞d7 45.♞xh7 ♞f2

Here I missed the first of several easier wins with 46.♭e4

46.♭d5!

46...♞xa2 47.♞h6+ ♕e7 48.♞f6+

48.♭xd6!

48...♕f8 49.h3 ♞xb3 50.♞xd6

50.♞h6+ ♕c7 51.♞xd6

50...♞xd6 51.♞xd6+ ♕g8 52.♭f6+?

52.♞d8+ ♕g7 53.♞g5+ ♕f8 54.♞h6+ ♕e8 55.♭d6+

52...♕g7 53.♞xe5 ♞xc4?

Black could resist longer with 53...♙xc4 54.♭d5+ ♕g6 55.♞f6+ ♕h7 56.♞f7+ ♕h6 57.♞xf4+ ♕g6 58.♞g4+ ♕h6 when White is winning but can still go wrong ...

54.♭d7+ ♕h7 55.♞g5

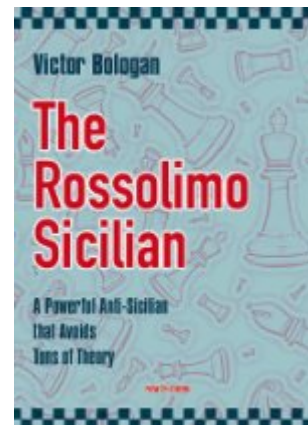
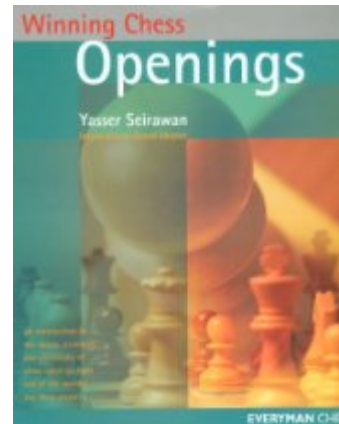
Now there is no reasonable way to defend against the mate threat since

55...♙g6 56.♭f8+

would be too easy.

1-0

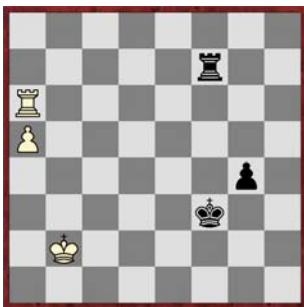
The game was annotated by the winner



<http://astore.amazon.ca/>



While pawn endgames are most basic, they are probably not the most wide-spread as this distinction should go to rook endings. Since there are many more physical moves possible with rooks on, knowledge of principles becomes even more important as calculation inevitable proves to be more complicated and less precise. Here is another exercise I offered to my Youth Team charges.



While Black can easily win if he manages to dispose of the white pawn (because White's king is too far to interfere with Black's pawn movement), a victory will be out of question if the king in question will be able to support the a-pawn, while the white rook is allowed to switch its attention to stopping the g-pawn from promotion. That's why it is vital to attack the target at once

**1...♖f5! 2.♞a8**

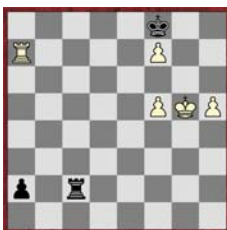
Unfortunately for White 2.♔b3 g3 3.♔b4 g2 4.♞g6 ♞f4+ 5.♔b5 ♞g4+ loses as a result of Black applying the main resource of this type of endgames – bridge-building

**2...g3 3.a6 ♞f6!**

Sticking to the established pattern of a side attack keeps Black in control but one move astray, and all would have gone wrong 3...♞a5? 4.a7 g2 5.♞f8+ ♔e2 6.♞e8+ ♔f2 7.♞f8+ ♔g1 8.♞f7= and Black's rook is too busy dealing with the pawn to build any bridges

**4.a7 ♞f7**

**0-1**



While principles are guiding stars in most positions, exceptions are useful as well. This position is completely counter-intuitive. Normally, Black would easily draw by preventing the king to step in front of the pawn but in this case the h-pawn would see White through. On the other hand, an immediate check would often lose against but one pawn, let alone three – yet, in this position that's the only way to save the game

**1...♞g2+ 2.♔f6 a1♞+**

that's the trick! The rook wouldn't do much from "g2"...

**3.♞xa1 ♞a2!=**

...but it doesn't need to, either. Unique as it is, this exercise teaches one important aspect of endgames: stalemate is always something to be kept in mind

**1/2**



This position is rather deceptive because one can solve it on calculation alone, without the least understanding of the principles. ♞h4 is a mighty threat, and Black absolutely must deal with the ♔ on "g5". So, the first move

**1...♞e8!**

is almost a no-brainer

**2.♞xd6 ♞e5+ 3.♔f4**

that's Black's first strike of luck 3.♔h6?? ♞h5#

**3...♞e6 4.♞d7+**

4.♞xc6?? Black's second strike of luck 4...♔xe6 5.♔g5 ♔f7+ and the farthestmost pawn brings Black to the top

**4...♔xf6**

**1/2**

While it might seem that calculation is all it takes to save Black, his course of action is, in fact, most instructive as well as efficient. For a simple reason that to deal with the king on the "g5", the rook had to come out of its reclusion on "d8" and plunge into a middle of things. In other words, it had to become **active**. And **ACTIVITY** is by far the most important and universal principle of the endgame.

The following is a pretty typical illustration of this principle as Black's material advantage simple pales before the combined activity of White's remaining—even though hardly numerous! - pieces.



White's pawns are more advanced, and the king supports them better than the black counterpart. Those are the active pieces that should be looked to. Surprisingly but logically at the same time, the ♖ is less important

**1. ♖d2 ♗xd2 2. a5**

This move becomes possible because of the ♖'s current passive position – in respect to main battlefield which are the passing pawns, that is

**2... bxa5**

2... ♖c4?? is too late as the pawn slips through 3. a6 ♗d6 4. ♗xb6 ♗c8+ 5. ♗c7+–

**3. b6 ♗c4 4. b7 ♗e5 5. ♗b8!**

That's where it becomes tricky because Black's material advantage is quite enormous 5. ♗b6? ♗d7+ 6. ♗c6 ♗b8+ 7. ♗c7 ♗a6+ 8. ♗b6 ♗b8 9. ♗c7 a4 10. ♗xb8 a3 11. ♗c8 a2+–

**5... ♗c6+ 6. ♗c7**

yet a piece (in this case, a pawn) at its peak activity turns out to be able to handle it

**6... ♗b4 7. ♗b6**

an amazing domination

**7... ♗d5+ 8. ♗xa5 ♗e7 9. ♗b5**

**1–0**

Once again, there are exceptions



it's hard to say where the ♗ should go

**1... ♗e1**

trying to engage the g–pawn but it seems that it can easily slip away

**2. g3 ♗f3 3. ♗e4**

White's activity is at its peak, and it seems like nothing can save Black

**3... ♗h2=**

...apart from this amazing move! There is hardly ANY more passive position than that – and yet the ♗ is perfect to protect the all–important pawn. If the ♗ comes to "g2", it takes but one move to jump to safety on "f3". If the ♗ comes to "g1" the same move launches a counterattack leaving no time to take the exposed pawn.

Exceptions are difficult to account for within a strict system of rules—yet it's important to be aware of them as they are the very additional resources one might count upon to save an otherwise hopeless position.

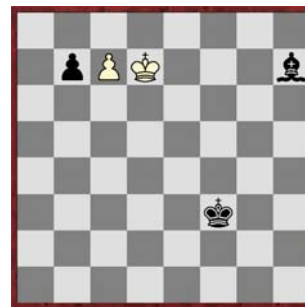
Besides, they are beautiful—and thus are able to provide for one's aesthetic pleasure.

The following home-tasks are not really that because the positions are two famous for anyone not to know them.

Yet I suggest that you take an additional look at them and try to figure out, which principles were applied to achieve a desirable result



White to move



White to move



White to move





# Across

## Canada



### MCGILL WINS THE CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

#### Championship section

#	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Tot	Tbk1	Tbk2	Tbk3	Prize
1	MCGILL 1	5	7	3	2	6	4½	14,5	100	13	Trophy
2	OTTAWA	3	4	7	1	8	4	14,5	100	11,5	Cup
3	WATERLOO1	2	8	-1	4	7	3½	14	100	12	Cup
4	TORONTO2	8	-2	6	-3	5	2½	8,5	100	12	
5	WATERLOO2	-1	-6	8	7	4	2½	8,5	100	10	
6	MCMAS TER1	-7	5	-4	8	-1	2	8	100	10,5	
7	TORONTO1	6	-1	-2	-5	-3	1	9,5	100	16,5	
8	CARLETON1	-4	-3	-5	-6	-2	0	2,5	100	14,5	

#### Reserve section (<1800)

#	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Tot	Tbk1	Tbk2	Tbk3	Prize
1	CONCORDIA	8	7	3	4	2	4½	15	100	12,5	Trophy
2	MCMAS TER2	4	-3	5	6	1	3½	12	99	15,5	Cup
3	MARIANOPOLIS	9	2	-1	5	8	3½	11,5	100	13	Cup
4	MCGILL 3	-2	bye	8	-1	9	3	14	100	10	
5	WATERLOO3	6	9	-2	3	7	3	13	100	11	
6	MCGILL 2	5	-8	7	-2	bye	2½	12	100	9,5	
7	CARLETON2	bye	-1	-6	9	-5	2	9	100	10	
8	QUEENS	-1	6	-4	bye	-3	2	7,5	100	12,5	
9	TORONTO3	-3	-5	bye	-7	-4	1	6	100	10,5	

Tbk1 Game points    Tbk2 Head-to-head    Tbk3 Solkoff

**Bernard Ouimet (tournament arbiter)**

This year the province of Quebec was the host of this team tournament, which is open to all universities and post-secondary institutions. Teams are composed of four players, plus one or two reserves. Students and personnel members are eligible to participate.

The McGill chess club was in charge of the organisation and presented more than just one team, imitated in this respect by Waterloo, Toronto and McMaster.

McGill's number one team won the Championship section ahead of Ottawa and Waterloo universities.

In the Reserve section the podium was occupied by Concordia, McMaster and Marianopolis in that order.

Each member of the winning team received a commemorative medal. In addition, gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the best individual performances by board :

**Championship section**

#1 Karoly Szalay (Waterloo), Minhea Voloaca (Ottawa), Michael Kleinman (McGill).

#2 Raven Sturt (McGill), Lloyd Mai (Ottawa), Jerry Xiong (Waterloo).

#3 Jason Riordon (Ottawa), Keith MacKinnon (McGill), Kevin Chung (Waterloo).

#4 Avinaash Sundar (Waterloo), Alex Ferreira (Toronto), Kenny Ah-Lan (McGill).

**Reserve section**

#1 Oscar Sprumont (Marianopolis), Ren Lionel Marcaida (Concordia), Eric Cheung (Waterloo)

#2 Chinedu Okoli (McMaster), Sina Bathaie (Concordia), Frédéric Reynaud (McGill)

#3 Robert Hayes (McMaster), David Rashidi (Concordia), Shao Hang He (McGill)

#4 Kaan Baser Celal (McGill), David Zhou (McGill), Victor Ndambakuwa (Concordia)

**Concordia**

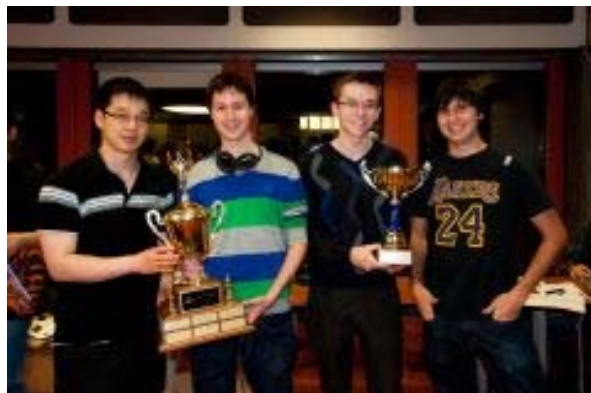
(David Rashidi, Victor Ndambakuwa, Sina Bathaie, Ren Lionel Marcaida)

**Felix Dumont (Organizer)****2013 CUCC : A Great Success**

It is pretty rare that an organizer, after a tournament, is fully satisfied by his performance. It seems to be in the nature of volunteers and organizers to be very self-critical, at the same level as many chess players.

However, the numerous volunteers from McGill made a great job and, at the end, few things could have gone better, even though there are always some small incidents. The formula of the tournament made us think a lot; there wasn't any prize! Still, players seemed very happy with medals and trophies, and they all left with good memories of the tournament. The reason might be that prizes aren't that important after all. By offering free snacks all the weekend, organizing activities downtown on Saturday night and ordering twenty-five pizzas on Sunday, the McGill Student's Chess Club, seemed to please players much more. These little touches seemed to become a good replacement for prizes, even in a national tournament, and the players will keep good memories of their weekend and the people they met.

Next year, the tournament should be organized in Ottawa, and we can say that many McGill chess players are already looking forward to it. For many years, the host university has won the championship. It's about time for McGill to break the trend and keep the title! We asked each player of the winning team to analyze their favourite game. You will see analysis from FM Michael Kleinman, Raven Sturt, Keith MacKinnon and Kenny Ah-Lan.

**McGill A**

(Ah-Lan, Kleinman, MacKinnon, Sturt)

**MacKinnon, Keith (2320) - Chung, Kevin (2286)**  
[C03]

CUCC 2013 Montreal (3), 12.01.2013

[MacKinnon, Keith]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 h6

A rare move but one I had been expecting

4.♘g3 ♘f6 5.♙d3 c5 6.exd5 ♗xd5 7.♙c4 ♗h5

7...♖c6 8.0-0 ♗bd7 9.♗c5 ♗xc5 10.dxc5 ♗d7 11.♖e2±  
1-0 Timman,J (2581)–Vallejo Pons,F (2702)/Budva  
2009/CBM 130 (49)]

### 8.0-0 ♗d6 9.dxc5

9.♗c2 with the intention of playing ♗c4 is interesting

9...♗xc5 10.♗b3 0-0 11.♗xc5 ♖xc5 12.♖e2 ♗c6  
13.♗e3 ♖h5 14.♗f4

14.♗d4 ♖xc2 15.♗xe2 This transition to the endgame  
would be favourable for me. I have a long-lasting edge  
due to the 3 on 2 on the queenside as well as my bishop  
pair.

14...b6 15.♗e5 ♖f5

Kevin decides he's better off keeping the queens on the  
board

16.♗g3 ♗xe5 17.♗xe5 ♗b7 18.f3 ♗d7 19.♗d6 ♖fd8  
20.♖ad1 ♗f8 21.♖f2

It would have probably been better to play something  
like c3, ♖e3, ♖d3 and then double rooks on the d-file

21...♖ac8 22.♗b3 ♗g6 23.♖e3?



Because now, there is a problem. Luckily, my opponent  
missed his chance to take the initiative

23...♗e5

23...♗d5!±

24.♖d4 ♗g6 25.c4 ♖f6 26.♖fd2 ♗h4 27.♗e5 ♖e7  
28.♗c2 ♖xd4 29.♖xd4 ♗f5 30.♗xf5 exf5 31.♗f4  
♖xe3+ 32.♗xe3 ♗c6 33.♖d6 ♗e8

At this point, my opponent offered me a draw. While I  
would usually accept, I decided to play on based on the  
team situation. I knew that I would need to win this  
game for our team to win the match.

34.b3 ♗f8 35.♖d5

35.♖f5

35...♗e7?!

35...♗c6 36.♖xf5 ♖d8 and although black loses the  
pawn, the d-file should be sufficient compensation

36.♖xf5 ♗e6 37.♖f4 f5 38.♖d4

The opposite-coloured bishops make the ending  
challenging, even up a pawn.

38...b5

probably hasty

39.cxb5 ♗xb5 40.♖b4 a6 41.a4 ♗d3 42.♖b7



42...♖g8?

Once the rook becomes passive, it's all over

43.b4 ♗d6 44.h4 ♗e5 45.♖d7 ♗c2 46.♗d4+ ♗e6  
47.♖a7 ♗xa4 48.♖xa6+ ♗d5 49.♗xg7 ♗b5 50.♖b6

50.♖a5 ♗c4 51.♗xh6

50...♗c4 51.♗c3?!

During the game, I was under the impression that it  
would be best to keep my b-pawn for as long as  
possible. Houdini seems to disagree and would have  
liked me to take on h6. I should point out that for the  
rest of the game, my opponent and I were playing on  
increment. 51.♗xh6 ♗xb4 52.h5 was an easier win

51...♗e8 52.♗d2 ♖g6 53.♖b8 ♗b5 54.♖d8 ♖e6 55.♗f2  
♗b3 56.♖d4 ♗c4 57.♖d8 ♗a4 58.♗g3 ♗f1 59.♗f2 ♗c4  
60.♗g1 ♖g6 61.♖h8

I finally commit to taking the h6 pawn and giving up  
b4. The rest requires no commentary.

61...♖d6 62.♗xh6 ♖d1+ 63.♗f2 ♗xb4 64.♖f8 ♖d5  
65.♗e3 ♗c5 66.♖c8+ ♗b5 67.♗f8 ♗f1 68.g3 ♗g2  
69.♖c1 ♗h3 70.♖h1 ♗g2 71.♖h2 ♗f1 72.h5 ♖d7 73.h6  
f4+ 74.♗xf4 ♖f7+ 75.♗g5 ♖xf8 76.h7 ♖h8 77.♗g6

An important win for our team that put us in a position  
to win the championship the next day!

1-0

Kleinman,Michael - Szalay,Karoly [C78]

CUCC Montreal, 14.01.2013

[Kleinman,M]

1.e4

A few weeks before this game, I had made a painless  
draw against Karoly at the Canadian Junior as Black,  
but was looking for more as White!

1...e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♗f6 5.0-0! b5 6.♗b3  
♗c5 7.a4 ♗b7 8.d3 d6

This could be called a sideline of the Ruy Lopez,  
although Black's piece development is very logical.

8...0-0 9.♗c3 ♗a5 10.axb5 ♗xb3 11.cxb3 axb5  
12.♖xa8 ♗xa8 13.♗xe5 d5 14.♗g5 dxe4 15.dxe4 ♖xd1  
16.♖xd1 b4 17.♗xf6 gxf6 18.♗d7 bxc3 19.bxc3 ♗d6  
20.♗xf8 ♗xf8 leads to an unbalanced endgame played  
in the World Championship match between Kasparov  
and Kramnik

9.♗c3 b4 10.♗d5 ♗a5 11.♗g5

An interesting attempt to punish Black for committing his bishop away from the e7 square. The resulting pawn structure is very bad for White, but in return I get complete domination of the light squares.

11...♖xb3 12.♙xf6 gxf6 13.cxb3 ♙xd5

13...f5 is another possibility

14.exd5 ♖d7



15.♗h4

This was probably a slight inaccuracy. Better was 15.d4 ♙a7 16.♖d3 a5 17.♖ac1 ♖g8 18.g3 h5 19.♖c6±

15...♖g8

15...f5 16.♖h5 f4 17.♗f5 0-0-0 18.d4 exd4 19.♖g4 with the point that ♖hg8 cannot be played due to ♗c7+! 19...♖hg8 20.♗c7+

16.♖f3

Here I believe Karoly overlooked that after 16...♖g4 17.♖xf6 ♖g5 18.♖h8+ ♗e7 (18... ♗d7 19.♖xh7±) 19.♖xa8 ♖xh4 20.♖c8! stops the perpetual after ♖xg2+

16...0-0-0 17.♖xf6 ♖g4

Another slight inaccuracy. g3 was more precise.

18.♖f5+ ♖xf5 19.♗xf5 ♖g5 20.♗e7+ ♗d7 21.♗c6 ♖dg8 22.g3 h5 23.♗g2 h4 24.♖ac1 f5 25.♗xe5+

25.f4 is even prettier, with the idea 25...exf4 26.d4 traps the bishop! 26...fxg3 27.dxc5 h3+ 28.♗g1 gxh2+ 29.♗xh2 ♖g2+ 30.♗h1 ♖xb2 31.♖f3+-

25...dxe5 26.♖xc5 f4



27.g4

I was really happy to find this move in the game, although the computer does not like it quite as much as myself. The critical line is 27...♖xg4+ 28.♗f3 ♖g1 29.♖fc1 ♖xc1 30.♖xc1 where my king's activity and extra pawn gives me very good winning chances

27...♗d6 28.♖fc1! ♖xg4+ 29.♗f3 ♖g1 30.♖c6+ ♗xd5 31.♖1c5+ ♗d4 32.♖a5!



Creating unstoppable mating threats

32...♖d8

32...c4+ 33.♗e2 exd3+ 34.♗f3 is another cute line, where mate will follow shortly

33.♗e2 f3+ 34.♗d2 ♖d1+ 35.♗xd1 ♗xd3 36.♖xe5

This win contributed to the 2.5-1.5 score against Waterloo, and was very satisfying to play.

1-0

Ah-Lan,Kenny (2093) - Palmer,Jordan (1976) [A52]

CUCC 2013, 13.01.2013

[,Kenny]

I present my game from the crucial round 4, where we faced Ottawa, who was trailing us by 0.5 points. A win would put them in the lead, but our victory would guarantee us the 1st place in the tournament.

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e5

The Budapest Gambit! I don't have much experience playing against this opening. Black sacrifices a pawn, hoping for some compensation.

3.dxe5 ♗g4

3...♗e4 is another possibility.

4.♙f4

The Rubinstein variation. I prefer this move to 4.♗f3, because my bishop gets locked in after: 4.♗f3 ♙c5 5.e3 5...♗c6 6.♙e2 0-0 7.0-0 ♖e8 8.♗c3 ♗gxe5 9.♗xe5 ♗xe5 10.b3 a5 11.♙b2 ♖a6 This rook lift, which makes for an interesting game.

4...♗c6

Also possible is: 4...g5 5.♙g3 ♙g7 with interesting play.

5.♗f3 ♙b4+ 6.♗c3

The other main move gives back the e5-pawn in exchange for the bishop pair and a nice pawn structure. 6.♗bd2 ♖e7 7.e3 ♗gxe5 8.♗xe5 ♗xe5 9.a3 ♙xd2+ 10.♖xd2 d6 11.♙e2 The position looks solid for both players here

6...♖e7 7.♖d5 ♙xc3+ 8.bxc3

White is a pawn up, but the pawn structure is messed up with the doubled pawns on c3 and c4.

8...f6 9.exf6 ♗xf6 10.♖d3 d6 11.g3

11.e3 0-0 12.♔c2 b6 13.0-0 ♖b7 Placing the bishop on e2 is also playable, but now it is Black who has the bishop on the a8–h1 diagonal!

11...0-0 12.♔g2 ♖e4 13.0-0 ♖c5 14.♗e3 ♖e6

I think this is probably the best move. However, it seems that White got a nice edge out of the opening. 14...♗f6 is also possible. 15.♖d4 ♔d7 16.♖b5 ♗ac8 17.♗d2 ♔e6 18.♔d5 but I would not enjoy playing with Black here.; exchanging the queens would just be bad. 14...♗xe3? 15.♔xe3 Black has no compensation, and White has a strong bishop pair.; 14...♔c6? 15.♖d4 and White will exchange his knight for the black bishop.

15.♖d4 ♔d7

I was looking at the following variations: 15...♖xf4 16.gxf4 ♗xe3 17.fxc3 ♖xd4 (17...♔d7 18.♗ab1 Preying on the b7 pawn again. ♖b5 and c5 are threats which may come later.) 18.cxd4 Although White's pawn formation looks funny, it is actually fine; White is simply a pawn up. In addition, b7 is a weakness and is problematic for Black.; 15...♖cxd4 16.cxd4 and now the pawn structure is improved.

16.♔d5

The pin is tempting. 16.♖xe6 is even stronger according to my engine. 16...♔xe6 17.♗ab1 ♖a5 18.c5 dxc5 19.♔xb7 Black is a pawn down and his pawn structure is undermined. The future is bleak for Black here.

16...♗ae8 17.♔g5

17.♗ab1 is another possibility, again preying on Black's weaknesses.

17...♗f7



Here I was convinced that I could win material by playing f4 followed by f5, but there were a lot of tactics involved. In the end, after thinking for a very long time, I deemed it too risky and instead played a move I didn't look at very much. Doesn't that just happen too often?

18.♗d2?

18.f4? Actually a bad move if Black plays precisely. 18...♖cxd4! (18...h6? Trapping the bishop does not quite work here. 19.f5! ♖exd4 20.♔xf7+ ♗xf7 21.cxd4! and white is an exchange up!(21.♗d2 keeping the queen is inferior to the other move. But still possible 21...♖xe2+ 22.♔g2 hxg5 23.♗ae1 and the knight on e2 is trapped!) ) 19.cxd4 c6 20.f5 Forced. (20.♔e4? ♖xg5 21.fxg5 ♔f5 22.♗xf5 ♗xf5 wins the exchange.;

20.♔g2? ♖xg5) 20...cxd5 21.fxc6 ♗xc6 22.♗xc6+ ♔xc6 23.♗xf8+ ♖xf8 and Black has reached equality, if not a slight advantage.

18...♖h8?

Black is eager to unpin the knight, but this is a mistake. I was relieved to see this move. 18...♖cxd4! 19.cxd4 c6 White cannot move the bishop back due to ♖xg5, as the c4 and e2 pawns become undefended. For instance, 20.♔f3 (20.♔xe6 ♔xe6 The c4 pawn is lost due to the threat of ♔h3. 21.c5? dxc5 22.dxc5 ♔h3) 20...♖xg5 21.♗xg5 ♔h3 22.♗fe1? ♗xe2! and White is in big trouble!

19.♔e3

Now White's position is solid again.

19...♗f6

Unpinning the knight.

20.♗ab1 ♖c5 21.♖b5 ♔h3 22.♗fe1

22.♖xc7! could have been played. 22...♗c8 23.♖b5 ♔xf1 24.♗xf1 a6 25.♖d4 Material is equal, but White has the bishop pair and a strong hold of the center.

22...♖e5?

Black goes for an all-out attack. Both players were under time pressure. 22...a6. This simple move was probably the best. White can't take the c7 pawn as the knight gets trapped.

23.♖xc7 ♗e7 24.♖b5 ♖g4 25.♔d4

an important intermediate move.

25...♗g6 26.♔f3?!

26.f3 was simply better.



26...♖e4

The last try. Black can lash out with: 26...♖xh2 27.♖xh2 ♗xf3 28.exf3 ♗h5 29.♗xe7 ♔g4+ 30.♖g1 ♔xf3 but here there are too many resources that save White, such as ♗h6! or the simple .♗e8 followed by ♗f4. 31.♗h6 ♗xh6 32.♗c8#

27.♔xe4 ♗xe4 28.f3 ♗c6 29.♖xa7

Black lost on time. The position is completely hopeless. Here is a sample line:

29...♗xc4 30.fxg4 Black is just too low on material. Note that ♗d5 cannot be played due to ♔xg7! Even if black's king was on g8, e3 or e4 would save White. 30...♖g8 31.♗c2 ♔xg4 32.♗b3 White exchanges the queens and it's all over. In the end, our team drew

Ottawa 2–2. Congrats to their team for putting up a tough fight and winning 2nd place in the tournament!

1-0

**Prysiaczny, Michael (1985) - Sturt, Raven (2294) [B13]**  
CUCC 2013 (1), 12.01.2013

[Sturt]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 ♟c6**  
**6.♟f3 ♟g4 7.cxd5 ♟xd5 8.♟b3 ♟xf3 9.gxf3 e6**

Heading for the notorious "endgame" line in the Caro–Kann whose name is derived from the resulting position after 10.♟xb7 ♟xd4 11.♟b5+ ♟xb5 12.♟c6+ ♟e7 13.♟xb5 ♟d7 14.♟xd5+♟xd5 15.♟xd5 exd5.

Needless to say I was quite dreading this position due to the fact that I wanted to win and though there still is a considerable amount of play left, I would much rather "play with the queens on the board" as Capablanca once said.

**10.♟xd5?!**

whether in aspiration for novelty or the result of an incomplete grasp on theory, my opponent played this. It's not so good and gives White's advantage away. He could have been going on the assumption that I didn't want to trade queens but since it was the only sensible move...

**10...♟xd5 11.♟c4?**

While his last move was dubious, this is just wrong. The only justification for ♟xd5 was to trade queens and hopefully use the two bishops to try and seek an initiative. Thus 11.♟xd5 exd5 12.♟e3 was better, although I quickly gain pressure on d4 and maintain a slight edge after the Rybka–recommended 12...g6!  
13.♟d2 ♟g7

**11...♟b4+ 12.♟f1**

I welcome the resulting ending after 12.♟xb4 ♟xb4 13.♟xd5 ♟xd5 when White's position is pitiful.

**12...♟f5?!**

A tricky move whose idea will be revealed after my opponent's expected blunder. More accurate was ♟h5, eyeing the h3 square just the same but also hindering ♟g1. I didn't even consider ♟xd4. A pawn is a pawn but there is no reason I should reward White's dismal play with anything closely resembling an initiative.

**13.a3?**

13.♟e3 was better and not susceptible to the oncoming tactic.

**13...♟xd4!**



**14.♟b5+!**

The only move. After 14.♟a4+ ♟f8 15.♟xb4+ ♟g8 White can resign.

**14...♟xb5 15.♟xb4 ♟h3+ 16.♟g1 ♟d6?!**

I still retain a decent advantage after this move. However 16...a6! was better after 17.♟e3 (17.a4 ♟d4! 18.♟xd4 ♟d8) 17...♟xf3 where White definitely doesn't have enough for the two pawns.

**17.♟g5**

17.♟xd6 ♟d8

**17...f6 18.♟xd6 ♟d8!**

An important tempo; the immediate fxf5 encounters 19.♟d1! when I honestly have no idea what's going on.

**19.♟c5 fxf5 20.♟b5+ ♟f7**

20...♟d7 21.♟d1

**21.♟xb7+**



**21...♟f6!**

Only here is my king safest, and only by moving up may my development flow like the Nile river.

**22.♟e4**

Careful analysis reveals White wants to trade off queens so that his miserable rook on h1 can finally have some life. This must be prevented.

**22...h5!+**

After this is completely done, it was a matter of whether I could win "up" a rook.

**23.♟e1 ♟d5 24.f4**

This move doesn't actually threaten anything

**24...♟hd8**

Simple.

**25.f3 ♟e7?!**

Unnecessary flamboyance, gxf4 would have won on the spot.

**26.♟g6 ♟f8 27.♟f2 ♟d2+ 28.♟e3 ♟g2 29.fxf5**

Can you find the mate in 4?

**29...♟f2+ 30.♟f4 ♟h4+ 31.♟e5 ♟d4+**

And here, on the brink of defeat, White honourably resigned.

0-1

## Alberta

Knut Neven managed to win the strongest round-robin section of the **Schleinich Memorial in Calgary** despite losing against the rating-favourite Dan Kazmaier. Knut scored 4/5 by winning the rest of his games while Dan gave a couple of points away way too generously and finished second with 3/5. Sean Perron and Gary Ng tied for third with a 50% 2,5/5 score.

The winner of the **B-section** also managed to upset the rating favourite, Itohan Gold and sweep through the field to score 4,5/5. Gold's 2,5/5 proved to be enough only for the 4th place while Hafiz Karmali and Bill Bentley managed to achieve 3/5 and tie for second.

A member of Canadian WYCC squad Diwen Shi had no trouble securing the first place in the **C-section**. His 4/5 sufficed for a comfortable margin over the second placed Chris Kuczaj (3/5). Arthur Milne came third with 2,5/5.

The **D-section** saw the only tie for first, when both Chenxi Zhao and Steve Smith scored 4/5. Robert Wilson's 3/5 was good for but third.

Finally, the E-section provided yet another clear winner as Tamir Bulga produced the popular 4/5—half a point ahead of Derek Zhang and a full point above Zeling Li who came third.

## Prince Edward Island

Fred McKim turned out to be much too strong for the opposition at the **2013 UPEI Winter Quick**. He swept the field clean with 5/5 while his closest pursuers, Gordon L. Waddell and Paul Randolph managed but 3/5 and tied for second.

## Ontario

An impressively strong **Hart House Winter Open** took place in the first week of the new year. It was marked by a strong performance by Artiom Samsonkin who disposed of 4 dangerous opponents in a row before making a draw against Tomas Krnan. 4,5/5 and a 2711 performance saw Artiom taking clear first, half-a-point ahead of Nikita Gusev and the overwhelming rating favourite Bator Sambuev. Bator lost in round 3 against David Cummings, and beating two talented juniors, Michael Song and Razvan Preotu in the following two round could not save the day for him any more.

While many strong players participated in the Open section, the **U-2200** turned out to be extremely competitive as well. James Fu pulled off an impressive win with 4,5/5 but no less than 5 players followed closely on his heels to fail by but half—a-point. Wajdy Shebetah, Aquino Inigo, Leon Perelman, Jonathan Yu and Derick Joshua Twesigye ended up in a huge 4/5 tie for second.

The **U-1900** section was won surprisingly by Robert Li (1526) and Troy Hansen (1610) who tied for first ahead of a whole bunch of 1800+ players. Two of those, Pi Nasir and Randy Moysoski managed to tie for third with Steve Nickoloff and Jiaxin Liu. All four players scored 4/5, half-a-point behind the winners.

The **U-1600** section was, in fact, even more competitive as no less than 3 players tied for first with 4,5/5 - and none of them played any of the other two! The players were Patrick L. Huang, Yanchun Zhao and Amir Mohammad Shafiee.

## Coming Tournaments

### Alberta

#### Northern Alberta Open

February 16-17

Edmonton Chess Club, #204 10840 124 St, T5M 0H3

Phone: 780-424-0283

#### A qualifier to the 2013 Alberta Closed Championship

##### Tournament Director:

FA Ali Razzaq [ali\\_alnajmi@hotmail.com](mailto:ali_alnajmi@hotmail.com)

5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE rated

CFC membership is required and available at the site:  
\$43 adults, \$28 juniors

##### Entry fee:

Before February 16: \$30 for CFC members, \$51 for non-members and \$41 for junior non-members  
Add \$5 if registering on-site at the Edmonton Chess Club on February 16.

Registration process: Pay Terry Seehagen or Ali Razzaq at ECC. Pay Vlad Rekhson at CCC. Pay by cheque sent to Edmonton Chess Club (address above). Enclose your name, and which tournament you are registering for with the cheque. Mail entries should be posted no later than February 9.

##### Free for GMs, IMs and FMs.

##### On-Site Registration:

9am-9:45am Saturday, February 18

Players who pre-registered in advance must come to the club by 9:45 am.

##### Round times:

Saturday, 10am, 2 pm, 6pm. Sunday, 10am, 2:00pm or ASAP. 30 minute rest guaranteed between rounds.

##### Time controls:

G/90 + 30 seconds

Top Fide				Top Canadian			
#	Name	Prov	Rtg	#	Name	Prov	Rtg
1	Kovalyov, Anton	QC	2606	1	Sambuev, Bator	QC	2673
2	Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2590	2	Kovalyov, Anton	QC	2638
3	Spraggett, Kevin	ON	2580	3	Hansen, Eric	AB	2588
4	Hansen, Eric	AB	2568	4	Noritsyn, Nikolay	ON	2586
5	Castellanos, Renier	QC	2529	5	Hambleton, Aman	ON	2571
6	Le Siege, Alexandre	QC	2528	6	Gerzhoy, Leonid	ON	2571
7	Sambuev, Bator	QC	2510	7	Krnan, Tomas	ON	2568
8	Charbonneau, Pascal	QC	2505	8	Samsonkin, Artiom	ON	2564
9	Tyomkin, Dimitry	ON	2486	9	Panjwani, Raja	ON	2517
10	Gerzhoy, Leonid	ON	2484	10	Thavandiran, Shiyam	ON	2514
11	Roussel-Roozmon, Thomas	QC	2476	11	Porper, Edward	AB	2490
12	Noritsyn, Nikolay	ON	2464	12	Cheng, Bindi	ON	2481
13	Hambleton, Aman	ON	2462	13	Wang, Richard	AB	2476
14	Zugic, Igor	ON	2462	14	Qin, Zi Yi (Joey)	ON	2466
15	Biyiasis, Peter	BC	2450	15	Hebert, Jean	QC	2464
16	Teplitsky, Yan	ON	2448	16	Cummings, David	ON	2447
17	Quan, Zhe	ON	2431	17	Pechenkin, Vladimir	AB	2439
18	Rabinovich, Alex	ON	2423	18	Hartman, Brian	ON	2438
19	Suttles, Duncan	BC	2420	19	O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2434
20	Krnan, Tomas	ON	2420	20	Calugar, Arthur	ON	2418
21	Pelts, Roman	ON	2417	21	Sapozhnikov, Roman	ON	2409
22	Porper, Edward	AB	2416	22	Piasetski, Leon	BC	2405
23	Adam, Dr. Valerian	BC	2407	23	Martchenko, Alexander	ON	2400
24	Kriventsov, Stanislav	BC	2406	24	Kleinman, Michael	QC	2396
25	Panjwani, Raja	ON	2402	25	Milicevic, Goran	ON	2390
26	Samsonkin, Artiom	ON	2397	26	Sasata, Robert	SK	2385
27	Cheng, Bindi	ON	2397	27	Szalay, Karoly	ON	2384
28	Hebert, Jean	QC	2395	28	Yam, Alex	AB	2380
29	Hergott, Deen	ON	2385	29	Preotu, Razvan	ON	2361
30	Hartman, Brian	ON	2374	30	Gusev, Nikita	ON	2361
31	Lawson, Eric	QC	2373	31	Hamilton, Robert	ON	2360
32	Wang, Richard	AB	2370	32	Yoos, John C. (Jack)	BC	2355
33	Amos, Bruce	ON	2355	33	Gardner, Robert J.	AB	2355
34	O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2354	34	Vincent, Trevor	MB	2353
35	Glinert, Stephen	ON	2349	35	Song, Michael	ON	2352
36	Pechenkin, Vladimir	AB	2346	36	Stevens, Christian	ON	2348
37	Tayar, Jonathan	ON	2344	37	Plotkin, Victor	ON	2345
38	Thavandiran, Shiyam	ON	2338	38	Kraiouchkine, Nikita	QC	2339
39	Livshits, Ron	ON	2336	39	Yuan, Yuanling	ON	2336
40	Doroshenko, Maxim	BC	2336	40	Peredun, Andrew	ON	2323
41	Sapozhnikov, Roman	ON	2334	41	Lee Jr., Vicente	BC	2321
42	Cummings, David	ON	2327	42	MacKinnon, Keith	SK	2312
43	Coudari, Camille	QC	2325	43	Ochkoos, Jura	ON	2305
44	Stone, Raymond	ON	2321	44	Villavieja, Butch	BC	2304
45	Vranesic, Zvonko	ON	2320	45	Valencia, Belsar	AB	2301
46	Yoos, John C. (Jack)	BC	2319	46	Pedersen, Rune	ON	2294
47	Piasetski, Leon	BC	2310	47	Jung, Hans	ON	2293
48	Kleinman, Michael	QC	2307	48	Dougherty, Michael	ON	2293
49	Jurasek, Miroslav	ON	2306	49	Knox, Christopher	ON	2287
50	Calugar, Arthur	ON	2295	50	Gordon, David	ON	2287



**Top Women**

#	Name	Prov	Rtg
1	Yuan, Yuanling	ON	2336
2	Khoudgarian, Natalia	ON	2284
3	Peng, Jackie	ON	2205
4	Orlova, Yelizaveta	ON	2119
5	Agbabishvili, Lali	ON	2111
6	Zhou, Qiyu	ON	2088
7	Du, Jasmine	NS	2084
8	Botez, Alexandra	BC	2038
9	Lacau-Rodean, Iulia	ON	2014
10	Roy, Myriam	QC	1971
11	Kalaydina, Regina-Veronica	AB	1962
12	Xiao, Alice Huanyi	BC	1859
13	Serbanescu, Natasa	ON	1845
14	Liu, Jiabin	ON	1748
15	Todd, Adie	ON	1741
16	Sametova, Zhanna	ON	1707
17	Foote, Joanne	BC	1699
18	Giblon, Rebecca	ON	1694
19	Vyranathan, Sobiga	ON	1632
20	Peng, Janet	ON	1604

**Top Under-20**

#	Name	Age	Prov	Rtg
1	Calugar, Arthur	19	ON	2418
2	Sapozhnikov, Roman	19	ON	2409
3	Martchenko, Alexander	20	ON	2400
4	Kleinman, Michael	19	QC	2396
5	Szalay, Karoly	20	ON	2384
6	Yuan, Yuanling	19	ON	2336
7	MacKinnon, Keith	20	SK	2312
8	Xiong, Jerry	19	ON	2284
9	Laceste, Loren Brigham	20	BC	2280
10	Cormier, Adam	19	ON	2219

**Top Under-18**

#	Name	Age	Prov	Rtg
1	Qin, Zi Yi (Joey)	17	ON	2466
2	Gusev, Nikita	18	ON	2361
3	Kraiouchkine, Nikita	18	QC	2339
4	Zhang, David	18	AB	2283
5	Ivanov, Mike	18	ON	2266
6	Marinkovic, Mate	18	ON	2229
7	Cheng, Jack (Kun)	18	BC	2222
8	Semianiuk, Konstantin	17	ON	2219
9	Inigo, Aquino	18	ON	2216
10	Sohal, Tanraj S.	17	BC	2205

**Top Under-16**

#	Name	Age	Prov	Rtg
1	Wang, Richard	15	AB	2476
2	Knox, Christopher	16	ON	2287
3	Li, Kevin	16	MB	2224
4	Fu, James	16	ON	2222
5	Peng, Jackie	15	ON	2205
6	Lin, Tony (Juntao)	15	ON	2204
7	Lo, Ryan	16	BC	2196
8	Dorrance, Adam	15	NS	2162
9	Plotkin, Mark	15	ON	2153
10	Kalra, Agastya	16	ON	2106

**Top Under-14**

#	Name	Age	Prov	Rtg
1	Preotu, Razvan	14	ON	2361
2	Song, Michael	14	ON	2352
3	Awatramani, Janak	14	BC	2240
4	Cao, Jason	13	BC	2223
5	Chiku-Ratte, Olivier Kenta	14	QC	2196
6	Doknjas, John	14	BC	2094
7	Kong, Dezheng	14	BC	2090
8	Zhou, Qiyu	13	ON	2088
9	Li, Yinshi	14	ON	2086
10	Zhong, Joey	13	ON	2023

**Top Under-12**

#	Name	Age	Prov	Rating
1	Wan, Kevin	12	ON	2162
2	Zhang, Yuanchen	12	ON	2125
3	Zotkin, Daniel	12	ON	1948
4	Zhao, Yuetong (Davy)	11	ON	1938
5	Xu, Jeffrey	12	ON	1936
6	Chen, Richard	12	ON	1860
7	Doknjas, Joshua	11	BC	1838
8	Gedajlovic, Max	12	BC	1789
9	Liu, Jiabin	12	ON	1748
10	Wolchock, Theo	11	MB	1684

**Top Under-10**

1	Noritsyn, Sergey	10	ON	2042
2	Ming, Wenyang	10	ON	1742
3	Guo, Thomas	10	ON	1643
4	Pulfer, Luke	10	BC	1605
5	Zhu, Harmony	8	ON	1595
6	Lin, Benjamin	9	ON	1556
7	Surya, Benito	10	ON	1542
8	Hua, Eugene	10	ON	1516
9	Wang, Kaixin	10	AB	1464
10	Grossmann, Lenard	10	AB	1419



142321	Han, Yiming	1926	1999	101701	Yee, Peter	1781	2023	155006	Makarov, Joshua	1552	1
142320	Han, YiFei	2129	2173	107994	Yoo, John C. (Jack)	2355	2483	136791	Manley, Jason	2071	2090
112311	Harris, Philip	1816	2105	150227	Yu, Robin	1629	1629	103904	Maund, Chris	xxxx	1472
154965	Harrmann, Andre	1466	4	150248	Yu, Rinna	1246	1246	111808	Ossinger, Brian	1538	1733
112513	Haukenfrers, Dale	xxxx	2216	154152	Zhang, Yutong	1541	16	125337	Oussedik, Elias	2253	2267
153004	He, Roy	959	1031	149220	Zheng, Maven	979	984	154786	Peters, Harrison	1598	5
143881	Herdin, Matthew	1976	1986	150532	Zheng, Victor	872	872	128210	Pitre, Louis	1833	11
149229	Hou, Frank	1234	1240	140424	Zheng, Kyle	1355	1377	148258	Robichaud, Alexandre	1431	1492
146635	Hoyer, Andrew	1586	1600	154138	Zhou, Felix	861	17	148257	Robichaud, Nicolas	1644	1687
152240	Huang, Patrick	891	891	154369	Zhou, Winston	525	14	149740	Saint-Aubin, Etienne	1035	22
153852	James, Rowan	1021	1021	153140	Zhou, Aiden	811	811	152648	Song, Sam	1978	2042
152395	Javid, Mavaddat	1794	1860	150552	Zhou, Annika	1040	1040	151278	Stackhouse, Jordan	1846	1846
150387	Jayaweera, Lahiru	1305	1305					103466	Taylor, Blair	1744	2000
137587	Jessa, Omar	1760	1859					154787	Therrien, Pierre	1725	5
154393	Jiang, David	529	11					154788	Therrien, Kevin	921	4
154135	Jiang, Jerry	610	16					153540	Turner, Peter	1705	1719
123082	Jiganchine, Roman	2217	2255					154433	Zahid, Mohammad Faisal	1694	6
154146	Jin, Eric	664	16								
150600	Kashfolayat, Amir-Arsalan	xxxx	1151								
110204	Kenney, Jason	2250	2260								
147246	Knox, Nathaniel	1511	1511								
154878	Kong, Norman	868	5								
106565	Kosinski, George	1865	2011								
137615	Kyriakides, Savvas	1981	2111								
144566	Lai, Jingzhou (PETER)	2029	2029								
141992	Landingin, Primero	xxxx	23								
141991	Landingin, Jofrel	1881	1969								
104186	Leblanc, Paul	1828	2136								
149900	Lee, Andrew Quinton	1866	1866								
139333	Lee Jr., Vicente	2321	2369								
151923	Lei, Kevin	841	880								
151615	Li, James	935	936								
153382	Liang, Albert	653	15								
153738	Lin, Alex Y.	1603	1603								
155059	Liu, Anya	600	3								
150317	Liu, Danny	1029	1057								
154367	Liu, Richard	582	14								
154145	Liu, Lucas	871	9								
145788	Lo, Ryan	2196	2217								
110351	Long, Hugh	1646	1955								
153353	Lornie, Alex	1675	18								
151629	Low, Ethan	886	886								
151636	Low, Kevin	1055	1055								
154136	Luan, Zhen Shu	1050	12								
154880	Ma, Frederic	701	5								
101642	MacDonell, Paul	1507	1573								
100088	McLaren, Brian	2122	2300								
155001	Melnyk, Clayton	1636	5								
154470	Mitchell, Kenneth	xxxx	5								
106910	North, Robert	1910	2188								
153383	Pan, Nicholas	610	16								
103043	Patterson, Roger	2084	2305								
128609	Paulson, Stewart	1438	1667								
104330	Pechisker, Alfred	2242	2294								
131393	Peters, Nicholas	1367	1376								
149297	Pulfer, Luke	1605	1667								
152399	Qu, Leo	902	902								
151924	Rahemtulla, Adam	1433	1433								
145899	Rathburn, Hector	1650	1689								
154137	Reny, Alex	938	938								
111115	Richardson, Ross	1810	2078								
143038	Roback, Joe	1885	1921								
152576	Rotariu, Constantin	1701	1778								
152790	Saremi, Yekta	1320	1381								
103673	Seid, Hee	2041	2278								
148208	Shao, Nathan	1439	1439								
154398	Smith, Alex	451	11								
135830	Sohal, Tanraj S.	2205	2214								
144472	Soliven, Joe	2001	2156								
124063	Stainer, Joel	1557	1656								
144558	Steinmetz, Fred	1418	1419								
142413	Stewart, Deron	1710	1715								
149622	Su, Michael	1658	1682								
103750	Sullivan, Brian	1668	1866								
150517	Sun, Ziyao	1336	1354								
154397	Tang, Qiwen	680	12								
150538	Tapp, Ashley	1443	1460								
105952	Tate, Bill	1566	2002								
152137	Toi, Andrew	1462	1544								
149108	Venables, Darren	1396	1396								
151916	Villavieja, Butch	2304	2350								
153389	Wan, Justin	702	702								
155030	Wang, Dennis	1139	10								
155057	Wang, Bella	600	3								
154394	Wu, James	684	12								
152091	Wu, Brenden	972	985								
150433	Wu, Howard	2259	2264								
154879	Wu, Lucian	599	4								
148766	Xiao, Alice Huanyi	1859	1890								
154160	Xun, Tony	925	15								
149202	Yang, Rick	1350	1376								
155002	Yao, Terry	xxxx	2								
147142	Yee, Anderson	1519	1529								

## Manitoba

## Newfoundland

## Nova Scotia

## Ontario

## New Brunswick







111334 Robertson, Trevor 1540 1706

**Foreign**

CFC#	Name	Rtng	High
112778	Bekefi, Laszlo	2323	2376
154451	Bu, Kevin	xxxx	2141
155017	Castaneda, Jhon David	xxxx	2183
149909	Courson, Wade	xxxx	6
153723	Deatrick, Alexander	2110	10
151296	Enkhamar, Galbadrakh	xxxx	2199
155011	Govindarajan, Sankar	1704	1704
153598	Greeff, Melissa	xxxx	2115
154450	Griggs, Walker K	xxxx	2200
154504	Havik, Victor	xxxx	2149
154855	Johnson, Frank B	xxxx	2374
110329	Morabito, Matthew	1894	2046
154449	Mu, Joshua	xxxx	2195
125483	Saidy, Anthony F	xxxx	11
154687	San Cristobal, Mario	xxxx	2200
154448	Schmakel, Sam A	xxxx	2138
153485	Sturt, Raven	xxxx	2315
151907	Suire, Benjamin	xxxx	1756
154454	Tarwid, Jan	xxxx	3
154447	Ulrich, Thomas M	xxxx	2201
153521	Valencia, Adrian David	1958	20
143973	Vavrak, Peter	2505	24
155010	Verdiyev, Gorkhmaz	1860	1860
138986	Xu, Haizhou	2307	2320
154452	Yan, Gaibo	xxxx	2106