

Alberta Chess Report



Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ August 2013



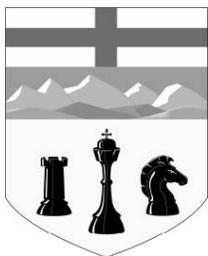
Largest ever AB Women's Championship is held in Fort McMurray



GM Lazaro Bruzon runs through the field at the 8th Edmonton International!



GM Wesley So was the class of the field at the 2013 Calgary International



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The ACR is published 4 times each year. Publication months are April, August October and December. Contact the editor for submission deadlines and changes. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they relate to Alberta. Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif. Please note that from now on, games published in the ACR would also be available on PGN at: www.albertachess.org/ACR.html Submit your request by email to: vrekhson@yahoo.ca Or call 403.970.8032

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1st Ft. McMurray Open/AB Women's*
- 2013 AB Active Championship*
- New Banff Chess Club*
- Club News*
- Albertans Outside the Province*
- 2013 Calgary International*
- In Memoriam*
- 2013 Lethbridge Open*
- 2013 AB Schools Championship*
- 2013 Regional Schools Championships*
- 2013 AB Championship*
- 30th Trumpeter Classic*
- 8th Edmonton International*
- 2013 AB Seniors Championship*
- And more...*

TOURNAMENT ADS

- Over/Under 1800*
- 2013 Medicine Hat Open*
- 2013 AB Jr. Championship*
- 2013 Edmonton/Calgary Jr. Regionals*
- 2013 AB Open*

CLUB ADS

- Calgary Chess Club*
- Grande Prairie Chess Club*
- Lethbridge Chess Club*
- Fort McMurray Chess Club*
- Medicine Hat Chess Club*
- Red Deer Chess Club*

REGULAR LISTINGS

- Top CFC & FIDE Rating List*
- Alberta Chess Clubs*
- Road Warrior Update*

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The Alberta Chess Association

To find out more about chess in Alberta visit www.albertachess.org In Calgary call 403-970-8032



Affiliated with the Chess Federation of Canada www.chess.ca



AB Women's Championship and 1st Fort McMurray Open

By: Vlad Rekhson

The AB Women's championship traditionally has not been a very successful event. There are rarely more than 4 participants if that and sometimes the tournament doesn't even take place when it should. Typically, this event alternates between Edmonton and Calgary, but this year everything would be different. The organizer of the newly formed Fort-McMurray Chess Club Jina Burn, offered to host this tournament in her town. At first, some people were skeptical about this proposition, after all Fort McMurray did not organize any open events in recent memory and it was unclear what the attendance be like. But the fearless Jina had no doubts from the start, as she made her way into organizing one of the most successful events in Alberta, in recent memory.

So what made this event so successful you might ask? Well, first of all the wonderful dedication of Jina Burn and the numerous volunteers that she lined up to help run the event. The event took place at the rustic Chez Dube which was a very nice location to host a chess competition. Of course the prize fund of over \$7000 did not deter competitors from attending. This was the largest prize fund in an Alberta event other than when the Canadian Open takes place in the Province. The prizes were divided evenly between the AB Women's Championship and the Fort McMurray

Open tournaments, but the women had an extra incentive as the ACA sponsors the champion to travel for a chess competition in the amount of \$1000.

The total attendance of 40 was the largest in an event that did not take place either in Edmonton or Calgary. 25 players played in the Open section and 15 in the Women's, which must have been an Alberta Women's Championship record. But before the events even began, Jina organized a special activity on Friday night. The recent Canadian Junior Champions International Master (IM) Richard Wang and Regina-Veronica (Nicka) Kalaydina took part in a question and answer session with the local players. They shared their experiences of playing chess and how they got to where they are now. Afterwards, the participants were able to take pictures with IM Richard Wang who is now a local Fort-McMurray celebrity. A draw was held to see who would get a chance to play against Richard one on one. The game would be on a giant chess set. Maria Dziarkach had the lucky number in the draw. At first she didn't seem too enthusiastic about playing the Canadian Junior Champion, as she only recently picked up the game. After the game started; however, they both seemed to take it quite seriously and in fact took quite a long time on each move which eventually prompted us to set up a clock. The main event got on its way on a Saturday morning, July 6th.

Unfortunately, there was an unexpected delay (you will see the pun soon) in the start, as it turned out that the local clocks

had no option for increments thus a 'delay' time control was used and the time control was changed from the originally planned 90 minutes with a 30 seconds increment to 100 minutes with a 30 second delay. This probably affected some of the out-of-towners who are used to getting extra time after each move, but were now forced to make every move in less than 30 seconds when reaching the end of time control. It seemed that everyone was remarkably patient with the delay at the start, the opening remarks included comments from Jina, as well as, from a local councillor. One thing that you don't normally see in our tournaments was the inclusion of everyone singing the National Anthem during the opening ceremony!

The first round of competition saw some major rating differences which translated in most games ending quickly.

Unfortunately for me, my opponent and Jina Burn's son, Johnny did not have any intention on giving up without a fight which resulted in the game being the longest of the round and receiving a colder portion of the pizza which was supplied to everyone by Pizza-Hut. The second round saw a continuation of the favourites winning, even though "The Rocket" Rob Gardner had to overcome a difficult looking position in order to defeat the local player-Arden Troy G. Abad. By round three the top players got a chance to face each other. I got to board one where I faced IM Edward Porper. I had some success against Edward in our previous encounters but this time I was outplayed in the endgame. On board two, IM Richard Wang drew against National Master (NM) Rob Gardner which left NM Brad Booker as the only other player with 3/3 in the Open. Things seemed to go according to plan in the Women's as well. Nicka Kalaydina won every game that she played including a round 3 defeat of her mom Nina. Her main opponents; Armine Arzumanyan and Jina Burn drew each other in round 3, after Armine escaped a completely lost position in Jina's time pressure. This meant that Nicka was the only one with a perfect score after round 3. Round 4 took place on Sunday morning and the main game in the Women's section was between the 1-2 players as Nicka Kalaydina had black against Armine Arzumanyan who was only half a point behind. After the game just started, the most unfortunate incident of the competition occurred. Armine borrowed

someone's phone and thought that she turned it off (or maybe on silence). Unfortunately, this phone started making noises which were a pre-set alarm. This was an official competition so the Arbiter Ali Razzaq had no choice but to enforce the tough ruling of forfeit for Armine as her mobile device made a sound.

Arzumanyan, Armine - Kalaydina, Nicka [B45]
 Alberta Women's Championship

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Be2 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Qd3 d5 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.e5 Nd7 11.Qg3 0-1

(This was the unfortunate time of the cellphone violation. The game Sihite, C.M (2162) - Kalaydina, R.V. (1928) from the World Under 20 Championship last year continued:

11...Kh8 12.a3 Bc5 13.Bd3 a5 14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Qh4 g6 16.Na4 Ba7 17.Rfe1 Kg8 18.Bf4 Qd8 19.Qh6 f6 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Qxg6+ Kh8 22.Qh6+ Kg8 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.Bh6 Qe7 26.Qg6+ Kh8 27.Bxf8 Qxf8 28.exf6 Nxf6 29.Re2 Qg7 30.Qxg7+ Kxg7 31.c4 Ne4 32.Nc3 Nxf2 33.Rxf2 Ba6 34.Re1 Rf8 35.Nd1 Bxf2+ 36.Nxf2 Bxc4 37.Rxe6 c5 38.Rc6 Rb8 39.Rxc5 Rxb2 40.h4 a4 41.Ng4 Bb3 42.h5 Rc2 43.Rxc2 Bxc2 44.Ne3 Be4 45.g4 Kf6 46.Kf2 Kg5 47.Kg3 d4 48.Nc4 d3 49.Nd2 Bd5 50.Nf3+ Kf6 51.Kf4 Bc6 52.g5+ Kg7 53.h6+ Kh7 54.Ke3 Bb7 55.Ne5 Ba6 56.Nxd3 Kg6 57.Ne5+ 1-0

It would be interesting to see how Nicka would improve on this game, unfortunately we would have to wait for another opportunity.)

This incident meant that going into the last round, Nicka could only be caught by Jina Burn. While the rating difference between the two was almost 400 points, Nicka knew that she couldn't relax as she was in a similar situation last year, when Jina was also half a point behind and accepted the draw in a position which turned out to be objectively close to winning for her. This year; however, Nicka dominated from the start and won the event with a perfect 5/5 which earned her \$1000 plus \$1000 for chess travel. Second place in the Women's section went to the surprising Carla Robitu who is not playing chess for too long, but was able to recover from her first round loss and finished with 4/5 earned her a nice sum of \$750! Third and best under 1800 was

shared by Armine Arzumanyan and Jina Burn with 3.5/5 each. They won \$425 for their efforts. Best under 1600/1400 and 1200 was shared by: Ancy Chacko, Sydney Mah and Maria Dziarkach who scored 3/5 each, earning them \$250. Best in the u-1000 went to players who recently picked up the game as Ivanka Bondarchuk and Maria Munroe earned \$50 each after scoring one point.

In the open competition, Round 4 saw the creation of the sole leader as IM Edward Porper outplayed NM Brad Booker. IM Richard Wang won the battle of the Richard's when he defeated Richard Pua. On board 3 I was able to defeat NM Rob Gardner in what was my first victory over "The Rocket" in close to 8 years! Going into the last round the two main contenders were finally slotted to meet, with Edward having the white pieces; unfortunately, after Edward played a solid opening, Richard decided to not tempt faith and offered a draw which gave Edward a clear first and guaranteed Richard a share of second. On board two I defeated Arden G. Abad, while on board 3 we saw that Nicka and Nina were not the only members of the Kalaydin family who could play chess. Oleksandr Kalaydin did not play competitive chess for 30 years, but back in the Ukraine he held the rank of a Candidate Master, which can loosely describe someone with a 2200+ (sometimes way higher) rating.

In the last round, Oleksandr defeated NM Brad Booker in a nice tactical game to take a share of 2nd. In the end, IM Edward Porper earned \$1000 for his efforts. The second-fourth place participants which included: IM Richard Wang, Oleksandr Kalaydin and myself each earned \$416. Best under 2100 (and best local player) was Ico Van Den Born who scored 3.5/5. Ico won \$350. The best under 1800 and under 1600 prize was shared between the local players: Arden Troy G. Abad, Fabio Santos, and Bill Kraus (3/5 each). They earned \$188. Edmontonian Stuart Riesen also scored 3/5 but he was eligible for the u-1400 prize which earned him \$200. The Best under 1200 award was split among beginners which scored one point each. They were: Francois Guillaume Marais, Samy Mikesch, Daniel Tarasenco and Chenrayan Thirusutharsan. Each of them earned \$25 for their efforts.

I would like to add that the closing ceremony was quite nice as some of the sponsors came to give a speech. The list

of sponsors that made this event possible is quite impressive and hopefully their contribution would continue for years to come as chess in Fort McMurray continues to grow and prosper.

Event sponsors: PLATINUM
 Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta Chess Association, LaPrarie Crane

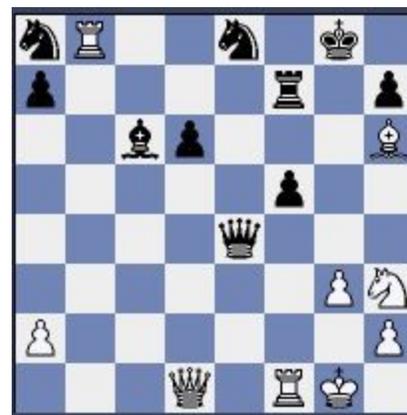
GOLD
 The Bouchier Group, Sunset Recycle & Sales Ltd, Chez Dube, Nexen Inc

SILVER
 A.P.E. Maintenance, Campbell's' Music, Snow White Productions, Boston Pizza, Pizza Hut

BRONZE
 APEGA, CEP Local 707, Yougen Fruz, Girls Inc, Photo Source, Domestic Goddess, Fort McMurray Public Library, Wal-Mart, Sobeys, Marc Sicotte

Kalaydin, Oleksandr (UNR)- Booker, Brad (2205) [A24]
 Fort McMurray Open

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.d3 e5 6.e3 d6 7.Nge2 c6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Rb1 Nc5 10.b4 Ne6 11.e4N Nh5 12.b5 Bd7 13.Ba3 Qc7 14.Bb4 f5 15.f4 Rf7 16.exf5 gxf5 17.Kh1 Bh6 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Ng1 Nhg7 20.Nb5 cxb5 21.Bxa8 exf4 22.Bd2 bxc4 23.dxc4 Qxc4 24.Rb8+ Ne8 25.Nh3 N6c7 26.Bxf4 Nxa8 27.Bxh6 Bc6+ 28.Kg1 Qe4



29.Rf3! Rf6 30.Qb3+ Kh8 31.Qc3 Kg8 32.Qxf6 Qe1+ 33.Rf1 1-0

2013 ACA Tournament Schedule

All tournaments subject to change by the ACA and/or Organizer. For updated info, visit our website:

www.albertachess.org/tournaments.html

Tournaments noted with a star are eligible for **Road Warrior** Points.



Date	Event	Organizer	Location
Aug 31-Sep 1	Over/Under 1800*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Sep 28-29	Edmonton Jr. Championship	Harris Wang	Edmonton
Oct 5-6	Medicine Hat Open*	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 12-14	AB Open*	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton
Oct 19-20	Calgary Jr. Championship	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Nov 1-3	Geoff Newton Memorial Sectional*	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton
Nov 9-10	AB Jr. Championship	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Nov 23-24	Southern AB Open*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Dec 14-15	WBX Team Tournament*	FA Ali Razzaq	Edmonton

Calgary Chess Club schedule:



Tuesdays: Standard time controls (90+30) each tournament starts on the first Tuesday of the month. \$5 per week entry fee 80% going to prizes. CFC rated. Doors open at 7 pm.

Thursdays: unrated Active chess, one tournament per week. \$5 entry fee. Doors open at 7 pm. Tournament starts at 7:30 pm. 4 rounds.

Saturday: Junior drop in centre. Free with a purchase of an annual junior club membership \$20. Doors open at 12:30 pm
www.calgarychess.com

Calgary Junior Chess Club

Runs monthly tournaments at the Calgary Chess Club. \$5 entry fees with \$5 annual membership. Prizes for all.

The club also runs events in Calgary libraries of Shawnessy and Forrest Lawn
Contact Paul Gagne for more info: paul39gagne39@hotmail.com



ACA Instructors

Visit the ACA Instructors directory to find out full details on instructors listed below.
<http://albertachess.org/Instruction.html>

Registered Instructors:
GM Eric Hansen-Calgary
IM Edward Porper-Edmonton
NM Robert Gardner-Edmonton,
NM Roy Yearwood-Calgary
Andre Angelo Tolentino
Frank Kluytmans-Calgary

Other Instructors:
Calgary Junior Chess Club
Lethbridge Junior Chess Club
Edmonton Junior Chess Club

Contact Vlad Rekhson at: vrehkson@yahoo.ca to be added to the list.

Road Warrior Update



The Road Warrior competition awards players who participate in open ACA events with points based on the distance of their travel. For example, if you travel from Edmonton to Calgary, 3 points are awarded for travel. A trip from Grande Prairie to Edmonton will earn you 5 points. An additional point is awarded to all the tournament participants.

2013 is the second most active year to date with 194 Albertans taking part in Open ACA events. There are still 6 events left and the record stands at 198.

The prizes this year are as following:

1st: \$200

2nd: \$100

3rd: \$50

A special draw prize of \$150 will be awarded to one player who travelled to at least two open ACA events outside their region (1 hour of travel or more). The draw will take place at the first ACA event of 2014.

Full details and regulations can be found at:
www.albertachess.org/Road_Warrior.html

#	Road Warrior	Home	Pts
1	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	29.0
2	Richard Pua	Edmonton	26.5
3	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	25.5
4	Rob Gardner	Edmonton	21.5
5	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton	20.0
6	Roland Schech	St.Albert	20.0
7	IM Richard Wang	Edmonton	16.5
8	Chris White	La Crete	16.0
9	IM Edward Porper	Edmonton	15.5
10	Terry Chaisson	Lloydminster	15.5
11	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	13.5
12	Jim Daniluk	Calgary	12.5
13	John Quiring	Edmonton	12.0
14	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton	12.0
15	Steve Panteluk	Edmonton	12.0



GM Eric Hansen is perfect at AB Active Championship
By: Vlad Rekhson

The AB Active Championship typically switched between Edmonton and Calgary; however, with the resurgence of the Red-Deer Chess Club, this year's event took place in between the two cities.

The event was held at the Red-Deer Lodge hotel and attracted 23 participants ranging from Grandmaster to novice levels. GM Hansen decided to use this opportunity to get a little bit of practice before the start of his summer tournaments. He was dominant as he normally is and won the tournament with 5/5. On his way Eric had to defeat masters: Dale Haessel, Vladimir Pechenkin and Alex Yam. The only one who gave Eric some real challenge was Alex but eventually he succumbed to pressure in a mutual time pressure. Second place was shared between FM Vladimir Pechenkin and Jim Daniluk with 4/5 each. Best Under 2000 was the new Albertan-Projjwal Pramanik. Projjwal scored 3.5/5. Best under 1600 was taken by Suresh Kadavil of Edmonton with 2.5/5. A special recognition must also be given to Ben Boody, who in his first ever tournament scored 3/5 including wins over two experienced A class players! Alexey Taranik did a great job with the organization of the event, as he had to deal with normal organizational issues, as well as two injuries! Yes, you read it right there indeed were two injuries in a chess tournament. As the local children finished their games quite fast they had to wait quite a while for their next game to start, which meant some running around which lead to those injuries. Both had to withdraw from the event, but they will be back! Full standings can be seen at:

<http://albertachess.org/2013ABact.html>



New Banff Chess Club
By: Vlad Rekhson

Banff, AB is a home of the newest Chess Club in the province. The resort city opened its chess club on April 11th and it continues to grow steadily. Bec Johnson took on the responsibility of creating the chess opportunity for the local residents she found a place and advertised it for the local community. As I made my first trip for the opening of the club, I was pleasantly surprised to see a double digit attendance by the local community which included men, women and children. The atmosphere was very friendly and the location by the town library is great, even though it looks like a different location



GM Eugene Perelshteyn is playing a local player, during a day trip to Banff, May 14th. GM Wesley So is in the background

may have to be arranged in the near future. My first visit included bringing some chess equipment and helping teach the game to some new members. My second

visit which took place on July 11th included an organization of a small casual tournament. I expected that pretty much everyone in attendance would be a beginner, but that was not the case. While the majority of the players indeed played in their first event, there were a couple of rated players, as well as, Jerry Kobalenko who did not have a rating (didn't play competitive chess since the age of 13) but managed to win the tournament with a perfect 4/4 and followed it up by beating me 2/2 in blitz!

The Banff Chess Club meets every week on Thursday at 7 pm. The next event which will be CFC rated will take place on September 12th. The competition will start at 5:30 pm and everyone is welcome to come. www.banffchess.com

Banff Chess Club

Pioneer Room, 107 Bear St.

The new club meets every Thursday at 7 pm.

banffchess.com



Clubs in Alberta



The Edmonton Chess Club

April Open

April ECC Thursday nights

This was the first ECC regular Thursday night event which attracted over 40 players. A total of 44 competitors took part in the April weekly event. FM Vladimir Pechenkin and NM Micah Hughey scored 3.5 each and shared the first place, without playing each other. Second was shared by Arnold McKay and Aaron Sequillion with 3/4 each.

ECC May Open

May ECC Thursday nights

For the second month in a row, a Thursday night event at ECC attracted over 40 participants (43 total players attended the tournament). NM Rob "The Rocket" Gardner, FM Vladimir Pechenkin, NM Micah Hughey, Tristan Tran-Ly and Manuel Borja scored 4/5 and shared first place.

ECC Hollowach Challenge and Schnitka Memorial

June ECC Thursday nights

The June competition was divided in two as the top half by rating played in the Hollowach Challenge with the bottom half playing at the Schnitka Memorial. Aaron Sequillion and FM Vladimir Pechenkin drew each other and beat the rest to finish with 3.5/4 at the Hollowach Challenge.

Joseph Young and newcomer Filip Filipchuk shared first in the Schnitka Memorial with 3.5/4 each. A total of 40 players took part in the two events.

ECC Summer Open

July ECC Thursday Nights

Attendance dipped slightly to 38 at the July monthly event. Five players tied for first as NM Rob Gardner, Joseph Young, NM Micah Hughey, FM Vladimir Pechenkin and Willy Majaducon scored 3/4 each.

All Thursday night events in Edmonton were directed by Micah Hughey

Calgary Chess Club News



April Fools Open

April CCC Tuesday nights

The April Tuesday night event attracted 19 participants. Hamid Abdelrhman won first with 4.5/5 ahead of Adam Harris (4/5) and Belly Cacho, Richard Beddoes (3.5/5 each).

May Flower Open

May CCC Tuesday nights

Tournament director, Frank Kluytmans shared first in the May CCC Tuesday night open with Hafiz Karmali. Both winners scored 3.5/4. Third was shared by: Hamid Abdelrhman and Douglas Nechio with 3/4 each.

June CCC Open

June CCC Tuesday nights

Erik Tam returned after several months absence to win first in the June Tuesday nights event with a perfect 4/4! Second place was taken by: Arthur Milne with 3/4.

All previously noted Calgary events were directed by: Frank Kluytmans

Calgary Thursday Nights Active Chess

The Calgary Chess Club runs active chess each Thursday Night starting at 7:30 pm. July 18 Thursday night was won by: Vlad Rekhson with 3.5/4. The July 25 competition was won by: Erik Tam with 4/4. Vlad Rekhson won on August 1 with 3.5/4. Attendance seems to grow every week, but the events are not CFC rated, thus membership is not required. Participants must be members of CCC or pay \$2 nightly dues in addition to the entry fee.

La Crete Chess Club

June Championship

June 15, 2013

Chris White organized an open and Jr. Championships in the town of La Crete. The events were attended by locals and players of other regions of Northern Alberta.

The Open tournament was won by the organizer Chris White with a perfect 4/4! Second was shared by: Carlito Somera and Jake Krahn with 3/4 each. 7 players took part in the Open section.

The Junior competition attracted 9 participants. Luke Martens was the class of the field and scored a perfect 5/5! Second went to Jessica Somera who scored 4/5. Ethan Cole was third with 3.5/4.



The Fort McMurray Chess Club ran a preparation tournament before their big Open/Women's events. The tournament was a Round-Robin with six participants. Ico Van Der Born was first with a perfect 5/5. Second was shared by: Xiaoshi Huang, Jina Burn and Fabio Santos with 3/5 each. Jina Burn directed the competition.

Fort McMurray Chess Club

Open on: Thursday 6:30-10 PM
Sunday 2-4 PM
Address : Westwood YMCA
221 Tundra Dr

Contact: Jina Burn fmchess-club@hotmail.com
or call Jina at 780.715.9332
Web: <http://fmcc.shawwebspace.ca/>

Red Deer Chess Club

Dawe Centre Library
Monday nights, 5 pm-6 pm Junior
program, after 6 pm open play.
Contact Alexey Taranik for more
information
Phone: 403-8721062
email: taranik1978@yahoo.ca



GM Eric Hansen ties for first in the Canadian Open

By: Vlad Rekhson

The 2012 Canadian Open Champion, GM Eric Hansen from Calgary, repeated his success at the 2013 Canadian Open, as he shared first with GM Nigel Short and won \$4,000 for his effort! This year's achievement might be even more impressive than Eric's achievement last year, since this year's event was considerably stronger than the tournament that took place last year. In last year's event IM Hansen had to over-perform 3 Grandmasters in order to win clear first. This year's event, however, included 12 Grandmasters! Eric's final score was 7.5/9. On his way to this outstanding result he defeated GMs Moradiabadi (2551) and Vera (2462). Eric drew with Grandmasters Short (2682) and Sokolov (2650). He also defeated IM Samsonkin (2407) among others.

Edmonton IM, Edward Porper also had a good result. Edward didn't start very well, as he had an early loss against former under 10 world champion-FM Jason Cao, but recovered nicely and finished with 7/9 to tie for third, earning him \$1,060. On his way to this very nice achievement, Edward drew with GM Ivan Sokolov (2650), and defeated fellow Edmontonian IM Richard Wang. Richard had a decent performance of his own as he scored 6.5 points to tie for 8th place to win \$400.

Several other Albertans had good results as well: Calgarian Alex Yam scored 6/9 to tie for 18th place and share second in the u-2400 to earn \$190. Junior Lenard Grossmann from Edmonton scored 3.5/9 which included a nice victory over William G. Doubleday rated 2166! Next year's Canadian Open and CYCC are scheduled to take place in Montreal.

GM Hansen, Eric (2581) - IM Samsonkin, Artem (2407)

2013 Canadian Open

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 g6 6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bg7 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.f3 0-0 10.Be3 Nc6 11.0-0 a6 12.a4 Rac8 13.b3 Qd8 14.Kh1 Nd7 15.Nde2 Nc5 16.Rb1 a5 17.Qd2 Nb4 18.Nf4 Re8 19.Rfd1 Qb6 20.Nb5 Rcd8



Canadian Open Co-Champions GM Nigel Short-GM Eric Hansen

Photo: Canadian Open Organizers

21.Qf2 Qc6 22.Nd5 Nxd5 23.cxd5 Qc8 24.Qe1 b6 25.Rbc1 Qb8 26.Rb1 Rc8 27.Qf1 Qb7 28.Na3 Rf8 29.Bg1 f5 30.exf5 Rxf5 31.Nc4 Ra8 32.Qe1 Rc8 33.b4 axb4 34.Rxb4 Qa7 35.Nxb6 Rb8 36.Bxc5 dxc5



37.Nc8 Rxc8 38.Qe6+ Kh8 39.Qxc8+ Rf8 40.Qb7 Qa5 41.Rc4 Bd4 42.Qxe7 Qa8 43.Rcx4 cxd4 44.Qe5+ Kg8 45.Qxd4 1-0

NM David Zhang wins 2013 CYCC

By: Vlad Rekhson

8 Albertans took part in the 2013 Canadian Youth Chess Champions. The Alberta Chess Association helped sponsor the trip of the six winners in the Open categories in each of the age groups from Under 8 to Under 18 in our provincial competition. This year the tournament took place in

Ottawa between July 10 and 13.

David Zhang from Calgary had the best result of the Alberta delegation as he repeated his success from two years ago and won the under 18 division earning him the right to be funded for the World Championship! All Albertans had successful results and no one scored less than 50%!

In the Under 8 category Ian Zhao from Calgary scored 3.5/6 to share the 8th place. Lenard Grossmann from Edmonton scored 4/6 to tie for 6th place in the under 10 category. In the Under 12 section, Andre Angelo Tolentino scored 4/6 which tied him for 8th place. In the under 14 section Calgarian Diwen Shi scored 4.5/6 to share fifth. Diwen was only half a point behind the champions. Nicholas Lee from Calgary competed in the same section and scored 3/6 to share 18th. IM Richard Wang from Edmonton shared first in the under 16 category, unfortunately Richard lost the tie-break and finished third.

Regina-Veronicka Kalaydina was our province's only represented in the Girls section. Nicka played in the U-18 section. She finished with 4.5/7 which earned her the fourth place.

Congratulations to all the Alberta Juniors on representing our Province well!



NM David Zhang (right) on his way to winning the 2013 Canadian Under 18 Championship.

Photo: CYCC Organizers

IM Edward Porper, shares 4th, earns GM norm in Chicago

By: Vlad Rekhson

Edmonton, IM Edward Porper took part in the traditional Chicago Open which took place on May 23-27, 2013. The tournament was very strong as the field included a total of 21 Grandmasters. Edward managed one of the best performances of his career, as he scored 6.5/9 including wins over 3 GMs, tying for fourth place and earning a Grandmaster norm!



2013 AB Junior Championship

November 9-10, 2013
 Location: Delta Bow Valley Calgary,
 209 4 Ave SE

Sponsored by: Alberta Chess Association and Calgary Junior Chess Club

Organizers: Paul Gagne, Angelo Tolentino,
 Vlad Rekhson

Contact: vrehkson@yahoo.ca, 403-970-8032

Website:

<http://www.albertachess.org/2013abjunior.php>

Sections: Championship, Open, Girls, Under 1300, Under 800.

Eligibility: Anyone born after January 1, 1994
 (see below for Champ. Section qualification).



Top 10 Juniors (Aug 1 list)

1	Wang, Richard	Edmonton	2492
2	Zhang, David	Calgary	2315
3	Miller, David	Grande Prairie	2133
4	Shi, Diwen	Calgary	2071
5	Kalaydina, Regina-Veronica	Calgary	1951
6	Singh, Krishneel	Calgary	1926
7	Kassam, Jamil F.	Edmonton	1907
8	Wang, Harris	Edmonton	1863
9	Wang, Yuekai	Calgary	1821
10	Lee, Nicholas	Calgary	1744

Format:

Championship-6 player Round-Robin.

Open- 5 Round Swiss

Other sections-7 Round Swiss

(or RR if the section is small)

Time Control: Championship and Open:

G/90+30 seconds increment.

Other sections: G/45+30 seconds increment.

Schedule: On-site registration: Nov 9, 9 am-9:30 am.

Opening Announcements: Nov 9, 9:45 am.

Estimated Round times:

Championship/Open: Nov 9: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm

Nov 10: 10 am, 2 pm. Closing Ceremony: 5 pm

Other sections: Nov 9: 10 am, 11:30 am, 2 pm, 4 pm

Nov 10: 10 am, noon. Closing Ceremony: 2 pm

Upcoming events. More details will be available soon at:

www.albertachess.org

Weekend Before Christmas Team

Edmonton Chess Club
 #204 10840 124 St Edmonton, AB
 Dec 14-15, 2013

Organizer: Terry Seehagen

terryseehagen@hotmail.com

5 Rounds (format TBD) CFC/FIDE rated Teams of 3 players (with one substitute allowed). Maximum average rating cannot exceed 2000. [Visit www.albertachess.org](http://www.albertachess.org) for event updates.

Geoff Newton Memorial Sectional

Edmonton Chess Club
 #204 10840 124 St Edmonton, AB
 Nov 1-3, 2013

Organizer: Mike Zeggelaar

zerg_gosu@hotmail.com

6 player sections based on rating. 5 round round Robin. Section A will be FIDE rated.

Visit: www.albertachess.org for updates

Prizes: Championship: 1st-\$1000 travel to 2014 Canadian Junior, Trophy

2nd, 3rd place-Trophy. Medals for all others.

Other sections: 1st place-\$100 of Professional Chess Coaching

2nd, 3rd place-Trophies. Medals for all others.

Entry fees: Championship-Free (up to \$300 of paid expenses for out of town players).

Other sections: \$30 if pre-registered by Nov 8.

\$35 on-site registration.

Eligibility to qualify for the AB Jr. Championship

(top section):

Top four Juniors by CFC rating.

Highest achieved between Aug 1-Oct 1 will count.

Winners of Edmonton/Calgary Regionals.

Championship Section participants must confirm entry by: noon, November 1st.

Replacements will be chosen by rating.

Southern AB Open

Calgary Chess Club
 Suite 274-3359 27 St NE Calgary, AB
 Nov 23-24, 2013

Organizer: Frank Kluytmans

fekluytmans@gmail.com

5 round Open Swiss. Winner if Albertan receives a spot at the 2014 AB Championship

CFC/FIDE rated

Visit: www.albertachess.org for updates



Calgary Junior Chess Championship

October 19-20, 2013



Edmonton Jr. Championship

September 28-29, 2013



Edmonton Chess Club #204 10840 124 St.
Edmonton, AB
Organizer: Harris Wang harris.wang@shaw.ca
Eligibility: Anyone born after January 1, 1994

Calgary Chess Club
Suite 274-3359 27 St NE Calgary, AB

Organizer: Paul Gagne paul39gagne39@hotmail.com

Eligibility: Anyone born after January 1, 1994

Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association and Calgary Jr. Chess Club

Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association

Sections:

Open
Under 1300
Girls

Format:

Open Section: 5 rounds Swiss. Time control: 90 minutes+ 30 seconds increment per move.

Other sections: 7 rounds Swiss. Time control: 45 minutes+ 30 seconds increment per game.

Entry fee: \$25 if pre-registered by Sep 20. \$30 if pre-registered before Sep 27. \$35 on-site registration.

How to register:

Visit www.albertachess.orgEDMjr2013.php and fill out the registration form. Payment will be done on-site with either cash or check made out to Alberta Chess Association. Pre-registered players must come by 9:45 am or confirm they are coming by calling 780-424-0283 on the morning of round 1 or they won't be paired.

Schedules:

Estimated Schedule of Open:

Saturday, Sep 28:
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am.
Opening Ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am.
Appr. Round times: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm.
Sunday, Sep 29: 10 am, 2 pm.

Estimated Schedule of Other sections:

Sat, Sep 28:
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am.
Opening Ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am.
Appr. Round times: 10 am, 11:30, 3 pm, 5 pm.
Sunday, Sep 29: 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm.

Prizes:

Open section: **1st place-Guaranteed spot at AB Junior Championship with expenses paid up to \$300.(6 player RR top players in the province held in Calgary) + \$100 of professional coaching+Trophy.**
2nd place-\$100 in professional coaching+Trophy+ Free entry to AB Jr. Open Tournament.
3rd place-Trophy

Other sections: **1st place-**Free entry to AB Jr. Championship corresponding section and \$100 of professional coaching.
2nd and 3rd place-trophies. All other participants will receive prizes as well!

Sections:

Open
Under 1300
Under 800
Girls

Format:

Open Section: 5 rounds Swiss. Time control: 90 minutes+ 30 seconds increment per move.

Other sections: 7 rounds Swiss. Time control: 45 minutes+ 30 seconds increment per game.

Entry fee: \$25 if pre-registered by Oct 12. \$30 if pre-registered before Oct 18. \$35 on-site registration.

How to register:

Visit www.albertachess.org and fill out the registration form. Payment will be done on-site with either cash or check made out to Alberta Chess Association. Pre-registered players must come by 9:45 am or confirm they are coming by calling 403-970-8032 on the morning of round 1 or they won't be paired.

Schedules:

Estimated Schedule of Open:

Saturday, Oct 19:
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am.
Opening Ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am.
Appr. Round times: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm.
Sunday, Oct 20: 10 am, 2 pm.

Estimated Schedule of Other sections:

Sat, Oct 19:
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am.
Opening Ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am.
Appr. Round times: 10 am, 11:30, 3 pm, 5 pm.
Sunday, Oct 20: 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm.

Prizes:

Open section: **1st place-Guaranteed spot at AB Junior Championship held in Calgary.+ \$150 of professional coaching+Trophy.**
2nd place-\$100 in professional coaching+Trophy+ Free entry to AB Jr. Open Tournament.
3rd place-Trophy

Other sections: **1st place-**Free entry to AB Jr. Championship corresponding section and \$100 of professional coaching.
2nd and 3rd place-trophies. All other participants will receive prizes as well!

2013 Calgary International Chess Classic



May 14 - 20

Best Western Village Park Inn, 1804 Crowchild Trail NW



GM So dominates in the 6th Calgary International

By: Vlad Rekhson

The 6th Calgary International contained several firsts. For the first time the city of Calgary had a player rated 2700+ participating in a tournament within its boundaries. GM Wesley So, who represents the Philippines but currently goes to university in St. Louis was a great addition to the tournament. 2700 rating is almost a magic threshold after which the players are often considered to be Super Grandmasters. When Wesley was first invited to come to Calgary, his rating was "only" 2689, but following a few successful events which included tying for first in a very strong Reykjavik Open, Wesley's rating during the tournament was 2705! As all of us who were involved with the tournament found out, Wesley was more than just a tremendous chess player; he is a very friendly and approachable person (which in fact can be said about all the Grandmasters who came to the 2013 Calgary International). He really seems to love the game of chess and was ready to analyze games with his opponents as well as, bystanders. At one point after his last game was finished, Wesley approached me and asked if I wanted to play some blitz with him.

Normally when a 2700 asks you to play him blitz the normal reply should be: where do I pay a small fortune to sign up? Unfortunately, I was busy at the time, wrapping up the event but I did get my shot at Wesley in the Blitz tournament. The result was of course as expected. Another first this year was that we had a local Grandmaster taking part in the event. Of course, this was not the first ever Calgary International for Eric Hansen, but the fact that he received the greatest title in chess, this January, meant that for the first time ever, we had a local Grandmasters to cheer for. An additional first was the introduction of the so called 30 move rule. With this rule agreed draws under 30 moves were not allowed. While this rule doesn't do much to prevent pre-arranged draws as professionals know how to make a draw if they both want it and they both know that the other guy wants it, but it is working great when it comes to taking out the early draw offer option which is why many games end in early draws. For example, player 1 is nervous for whatever reason, player 2 is also feeling under pressure and decides to offer a draw which is accepted. While it is possible that both players might be satisfied with the result, the tournament loses a potentially interesting game. As it was, the tournament had no problems with the implementation of this rule and there

were only a couple of games that ended prior to move 30 due to repetition. The tournament this year took place between May 14 and 20 at the Best Western Village Park hotel. 20 players took part in the International section. Among them were 5 Grandmasters and 3 International Masters. The participants this year represented the Philippines, US, Israel, Netherlands and Canada. Naturally, the top contender was Wesley So, but Grandmasters: Robin Van Kampen, Eric Hansen, Victor Mikhalevski, Eugene Perelshteyn and several other strong players were not going to surrender the title without a fight. Unfortunately, for most of them; Wesley was virtually unstoppable in this event. The first three rounds of the tournament seemed quite rushed, as they took place on Tuesday night, Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening. The tournament had 5 single round days and 2 double round ones. The idea behind putting a double round day on day two was that typically in the early rounds, there are mismatches in the Swiss system; however, this tournament contained a relatively small field and while the Grandmasters were winning their games against their lower rated opponents many other games were ending in draws or upsets, thus GM encounters began as early as in round 2. After round 3, we already had 3 games between GMs. At this point no one had a perfect score, but GMs Wesley So, Robin Van Kampen and Eric Hansen came close with 2.5/3. In round 3 Eric comfortably drew with Wesley, this draw was the first time that Eric was able to get anything out of a 2700+ opponent. A very interesting game was between GMs Wesley So and Victor Mikhalevski. GM So emerged as a winner after a seesaw battle with some unusual material balances. On Thursday and Friday, GM So separated himself from the competition. In rounds 4 and five Wesley defeated the second ranked GM Robin Van Kampen and an American norm hopeful IM elect Adarsh Jayakumar. His main rivals were not as impressive with his nearest rival-Eric Hansen, a full point behind after drawing

GMs Mikhalevski and Van Kampen. Saturday was the last double round day of the event. After rounds 6-7 it seemed that no one would be able to stop the Filipino juggernaut. Wesley was leading with 6/7. His nearest rivals were a full 1.5 points behind and included: GM Van Kampen, Edmonton champion-IM Edward Porper who was recovering nicely after a tough start and the former under 10 world champion-FM Jason Cao from Victoria, BC. In round 6, IM Porper was able to take the advantage with the black pieces against GM So, but decided not to tempt his fate and took a draw. In round 7 GM So, entered a complicated endgame against GM Perelshteyn from the US, and emerged as the winner in complications. Another important game in round 7 was between two top Alberta players. Typically, Eric Hansen seems to beat Edward Porper with as high a percentage as anyone, but in this game possibly inspired by his play earlier in the day against GM So, Edward managed to win and with that took Eric out of first place contention. It looked like the game will be heading towards a draw but unfortunately, Eric made a big mistake which cost him the game. FM Jason Cao was now tied for 2nd, but he did not get a chance to play any Grandmasters yet. It was apparent to everyone that his 2026 FIDE rating was about far from being accurate. By Sunday, almost all the possible GM encounters already occurred. GM Wesley So received admirable resistance from Jason Cao but was able to overcome it. GM Van Kampen drew against IM Porper, GM Mikhalevski drew the veteran Canadian IM-Leon Piasetski, while Eric Hansen and Eugene Perelshteyn defeated their much lower rated opponents. A special recognition must be given to Leon who was one of only two players in this tournament without a loss. Leon finished the event with eight draws and one win. It seemed like his skill was high enough to have no real difficulties in drawing higher rated opposition, but somehow he didn't have the right energy to beat the lower rated players. There is no doubt that the BC native IM is still a serious force to be reckoned with on the Canadian chess scene.

After defeating Jason Cao, Wesley managed to guarantee a clear first with one round to spare. A feat that was only done once before, when Israeli GM Victor Mikhalevski secured the title after round 8.

This time; however, Victor was only fighting for a share of 2nd-3rd prize. Going into the last round, second place was shared by: GMs Robin Van Kampen, Eric Hansen, Victor Mikhalevski and IM Porper with 5/8 each. All three were playing against lower rated opponents as they have already played everyone else from the top. GM Van Kampen defeated FM Jayakumar, GM Hansen beat Alex Yam and GM Mikhalevski beat Richard Pua. Only IM Porper did not manage to win as he drew with IM Piasetski. GM So finished the tournament in style as he defeated the young IM Richard Wang from Edmonton.

As the tournament came to the close the participants gathered in the local Kawa café. The owner, a chess enthusiast himself, prepared some special dishes for the players and provided 20 gift cards which were distributed in the tournaments. I would like to thank all the volunteers who made this years competition happen. They include: Jim Daniluk, who was the head organizer and kept track of everything, Frank Kluytmans, who was in charge of the Reserves section, FIDE Arbiter Ali Razzaq who directed the main event, Tony Ficzero who created the website. I would also like to thank Angelo Tolentino, Steve Sklenka and Steven Peter who helped the event by billeting players and helping with rides. Last but not least this tournament could not have taken place without the support of the City of Calgary Foundation for Arts,



the Alberta Chess Association, 1498413 Alberta Incorporated, Dale Haessel President, "The First and Last name in Software Development and volunteers from the Calgary Chess Club. Going into next year, obtaining funding for this event will be crucial, if you or your company would like to support a great chess festival in the city of Calgary, please contact the organizers and the Calgary Chess Club.

Reserves

The Reserves section of the Calgary International took place on May 18-20 in a room adjacent to the one which held the International section. 28 players took part

in the event which was 6 rounds long. Unlike last year, the Reserves this year had one section and players ranged from 877 to 2214 in rating! The winner was a visitor from the US. Jose Gatica is a student of one of the International competition participants-Tim McEntee. Unfortunately, Jose's FIDE rating was a bit too low for the main event, but he surely proved himself in the Reserves taking the first prize with 5/6. Second was shared by Alberta newcomers: Sherzod Khodjimatov and Hamid Abdelrhman with 4.5/6 each.

Projjwal Pramanik came to Calgary in the beginning of April and he is already proving to be a force to be reckoned with. Projjwal started the event with a perfect 4/4 but then slowed down and finished with 4/6. This was still good enough to win first in the u-2000 category. Hopefully Projjwal doesn't get too used to winning the award in this category as something tells me that he won't get many more opportunities, as his rating should go up soon enough. The under 2000 first was also shared by the Calgary chess scene veteran: Paul Usselman. Best under 1500 went to Edmontonian Suresh Kadavil who finished with 3.5/6. Suresh is another person whose rating is constantly going up as he seems to gain almost 100 points in every tournament. Second in the u-1500 category was shared by: Doug Sly from BC and Calgary juniors: Raphael Libre, Quirck Migrino, as well as, Patrick and Andre Tolentino., with 2.5/6 each. I would like to thank Tournament Director Frank Kluytmans for running and organizing this event.

Blitz

The Calgary International Blitz Championship was held on Sunday night. Unfortunately, most Grandmasters decided to get some rest and didn't participate in the event, the one exception was GM Wesley So. Naturally, no real challenge was presented to Wesley on his way to first place with a perfect score. 28 players took part in this fast paced tournament which was held in a 9 round Swiss format with a time control of 3 minutes with a two seconds increment per move. Second place was taken by the young FM-Jason Cao with 7/9. Third was shared by: IM Richard Wang, NM Rob Gardner, Sherzod Khodjimatov and Belly Cacho with 6/9

each. Belly took the best u-2000 category. Second best under 2000 was shared by Ali Razzaq and Yassen Bogoev with 5/9 each. Best under 1600 was shared by Calgary Juniors: Patrick Tolentino and Quirck Migrino with 4/9 each. Both of them are way under this rating currently, but probably not for long. It was a great pleasure for me to direct and play in this event.

GM Hansen, Eric (2577) - GM Perelshteyn, Eugene (2517) [C65]

[Annotated by: Hansen, E]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3

In my database Eugene had only played the Berlin a couple of times so I definitely was surprised. I made the practical decision to avoid it.

4...d6 5.0-0 Be7 6.c3 0-0 7.Re1 Bg4 Black decides to deviate first. As far as I know Bg4 is not very common. Re8 preparing Bf8 or the simple a6 is standard here. [7...Re8 8.Nbd2 Bf8; 7...a6; 7...Bd7]

8.Nbd2 a6 9.Bxc6

I wanted to wait for a6 before taking on c6. The resulting position is dynamically balanced.

9...bxc6 10.h3 Bh5 11.Nf1

Standard move in Spanish structures. I wanted d4 to work, though. [11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 d5 13.e5 Nd7= Seemed to give his bishops too much scope] **11...Nd7**

To me this seemed like the natural way for White to fight. Otherwise Bxf3 and Bg5 seemed dry and near equal. **12.g4!?**

[12.Ng3 Bxf3! (12...Bg6 13.d4 exd4 14.cxd4 d5 15.Bf4±) 13.Qxf3 Bg5=]

12...Bg6 13.Ng3 Re8 14.d4

I felt I had to do this at some point especially when I run out of useful moves.

14...Bf8?!

All our moves are considered normal in the Spanish and so we were just playing off the principles we knew. Black probably should have taken more caution at this stage, though. [14...exd4! As they say: open up the position when you have the B pair. 15.cxd4 (15.Nxd4 Bh4 16.Ng5 Bxf5 17.Nxf5 g6 18.Nxh4 Qxh4 19.Kg2 Nc5 20.f3 f5!)³ I didn't see this move.) 15...d5 worried me because it lets things get a bit out of control. 16.e5 c5 17.Nf5 with unclear position]

15.dxe5!

Clarifying the structure and allowing me to try to play with a small edge.

15...dxe5

[15...Nxe5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 (16...Rxe5? 17.f4+-) 17.Be3 And White should be quite comfortable as the bishop pair is not that strong while the crippled pawn structure is unpleasant. A simple plan here might be to play Qa4 followed by Rad1 and just poke at the position.]

16.Be3 Nc5 17.Bxc5± Qxd1

[17...Bxc5 18.Qa4 Re6 19.Rad1 Qe8 20.Nf5 Bf8 21.Rd2±]

18.Raxd1 Bxc5 19.Rd7?!

Played hastily. Nf5 was a stronger alternative. The point is that Black cannot try Bd6 like in the game. As a result I will be able to access the d file easier. Keep in mind that Black does not want to trade his light bishop for a knight because his weak pawns are on that colour. [19.Nf5 I find it hard to suggest moves here for Black. Rd7 is coming. 19...Rab8 (19...Rad8? 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.Nxe5 Rd2 22.Nd4 Bxd4 23.cxd4 Rxd4 24.f3± Rd2 25.Rc1 Rxb2 26.a4 Ra2 27.Rxc6 Rxa4 28.Rxc7 h5 29.Kf2) 20.b3 f6 21.Rd7 Bxf5 22.exf5 Bd6 23.Re4 Rf8 24.Kg2 Rf7 25.Rxf7 Kxf7 26.Ra4 Ra8 27.Nd2±]

19...Bd6! 20.Nf5 Rad8 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Nd2

Transferring it to the queenside to put pressure on c6 and a6 [22.Rd1 f6 23.Kf1 Kf7 24.Ke2±]

22...Bf8 23.Nc4 f6 24.Kf1 Bf7 25.Nfe3

Coordinating my knights. Now bring in my King and try to see what can happen. A risk-free ending

25...h5 26.Ke2 hxg4 27.hxg4 Be6 28.g5

Trading off a pair of pawns and securing f5 for long-term

28...Kf7 29.gxf6 gxf6

[29...Kxf6?! 30.Rg1 Bc5 31.Ng4+ Bxg4+ 32.Rxg4±]

30.Na5

The manoeuvring phase of the game. White is practically better and as Magnus has shown it is not something to underestimate.

30...c5

If Black has to resort to this then White should be confident in claiming an advantage [30...Bxa2 31.Ra1 Be6 32.Nxc6 Ra8 (32...Rd6 33.Nb4±)]

31.b3 Bd6 32.Rh1 Kg6 33.Rg1+ Kf7

34.Rh1 Kg6 35.Rg1+

[35.Nf5! I missed Nf5, once again. It should be even more clear now how much Black needs to keep his light Bishop. My king will walk to c4 otherwise and infiltrate. 35...Bxf5 36.Rg1+ Kf7 37.exf5 Rh8 38.Nc4 Rh5 39.Ne3 c6 40.Kd3±]

35...Kf7 36.Nf5 Rh8

Active counterplay is the way to go. Also forces White to make some decisions

37.Nxd6+ cxd6 38.Nb7

Leading into a forcing variation which I thought was good for me

38...Ke7 39.Rg7+ Kf8 40.Rg6?

40th move blunder. I chickened out [40.Rc7! Bg4+ 41.Kd2 (41.f3 Rh2+ 42.Kd3 (42.Ke3) 42...Bxf3 43.Nxd6) 41...Rh2 42.Nxd6 Rxf2+ 43.Kd3 Be6 (43...Rxa2 44.Rf7+ Kg8 45.Rxf6±) 44.c4 Rxa2 45.Nb7!± Very hard to defend as Black]

40...Rh3?

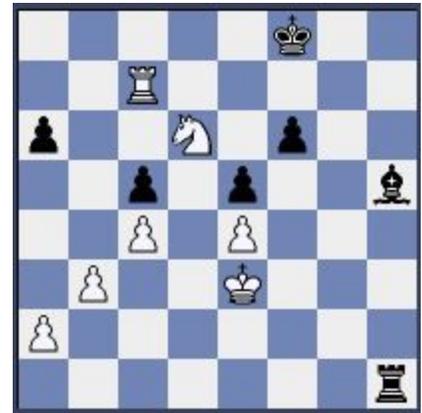
Returning the favor

41.c4 Ke7 42.Rg7+ Kf8 43.Rc7 Bg4+

44.Kd2 Rh1 45.f3! Bxf3 46.Ke3??

Poor technique. I saw a variation that looked good but somehow decided to avoid it. [46.Nxd6 Rd1+ 47.Ke3 Rxd6 (47...Bh5 48.Rc6 a5 49.Nf5+-) 48.Kxf3± Quite appealing once you realize your king will walk right into Black's camp. 48...Rd2 49.a4 Ke8 50.Kg4 Rf2 51.Kh5! Rg2 (51...Rf4 52.Kg6 Rxe4 53.Kxf6+-) 52.Rxc5 Kd7 53.b4 Re2 54.b5 axb5 55.cxb5 Rxe4 56.a5 Rb4 57.b6 Rb1 58.Kg4 Rb4+ 59.Kf5 Rb1 60.Rc4 Rb2 61.Ra4 Kc8 62.Kxf6+-]

46...Bh5 47.Nxd6



Re1+!

This intermezzo is what I missed. I thought it would transpose to a previous variation that was good for white but in this case my King cannot get to d3 because of Rd1 so the major difference is that my King will be cut off on the Kingside [47...Ra1 48.Nb7 Rxa2 49.Nxc5±]

48.Kf2 Re2+ 49.Kg3 Rxa2 50.Nb7 Bd1

51.Nxc5 a5

After this last precise move my opponent defends easily and the game fizzles out to a draw. White's king is too far away

52.Rd7 Ra1 53.Ra7 Ra2 54.Rd7 Ra1

55.Kf2 Ke8 56.Rb7 a4 57.Nxa4 Bxb3

58.Nb6 Rc1 59.Rc7 Kd8 60.Rc6 Bc2
61.Ke3 Ra1 62.Rc8+ Ke7 63.Nd5+ Kf7
64.Rc7+ Kg6 65.Nc3 f5 66.Rc6+ Kg5
67.exf5 Kxf5 68.Rc8 Rh1 69.Rf8+ Ke6
70.Re8+ Kf5 71.Rf8+ Ke6 72.Re8+

An interesting strategical game where I missed my chances in a pleasant endgame. ½-½

GM Perelshteyn, Eugene (2517) - GM So, Wesley (2705) [D85]

[Annotated by: Perelshteyn, E]

I decided to annotate my loss against the tournament winner, Wesley So. The endgame is very exciting!

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.Bd2 This move is gaining popularity these days. White's idea is very simple: to recapture on c3 with the bishop

5...Bg7 6.e4 Nxc3 7.Bxc3 0-0
7...c5 is more common, but could transpose to main line after 8.d5 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Qd2]

8.Rc1!?

a rare move, aimed to take advantage of 7...0-0 [8.Qd2 c5 9.d5 is main line]

8...c5 9.dxc5 Qxd1+ 10.Kxd1 Rd8+
11.Kc2 Bxc3 12.Kxc3

Here, we reached an interesting position. I am up a healthy pawn, but my lack in development and weakened king gives Black counterplay

12...Be6 13.Nf3 Nd7 14.Kb4 Rac8
15.Be2

[15.Bb5? Nxc5! 16.Rxc5?? a5+--+]
15...Nf6 16.Be4!?

I decide to give up my extra pawn, but in turn double Black's pawns on the e-file

16...Nxe4 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Rc2 b6 19.c6
Rd5!

Up to this point, my 2700 opponent played very strong. It's hard to find a way to stop ...Nc5 and c6 pawn is lost. After a long think, I found a interesting way to sac a piece for a passed pawn! [19...Nc5?! allows 20.Ne5]

20.Re1! Nc5 21.Ne5!

looks like a blunder at first, but in reality White now gains the initiative

21...Rxe5 22.Rxe5 Nd3+ 23.Kb5 Nxe5
24.c7!

the point of move 21, now it's not easy to play for Black. However, Wesley is up to the task and finds the best moves!

24...Kf8!

[24...Nf7? 25.Kc6 Nd6 26.Kd7 with a big threat of Rc6,xd6 forcing a winning King and pawn endgame]

25.Ka6 Nf7!

only now Black redirects the knight to d6
26.a4!

[26.Kxa7?! would allow 26...b5! 27.Kb7 Nd6+ 28.Kc6 Ke8#]

26...Nd6 27.Kxa7 Ke8 28.Kxb6 Kd7
29.b4 Rf8!

Wesley finds the best way to activate the rook

30.b5 Kc8 31.Ka7?!

I should have accepted the fact that White is not better and try to seek out drawish lines, for example: [31.g4!? Rf4 32.a5 Rc4 33.Rxc4 Nxc4+ 34.Ka6 Kxc7 35.b6+ Kb8 36.Kb5 Nd6+ 37.Kc6 Nc4 38.Kb5= neither side can improve]

31...Rf4 32.Ra2 Rf5! 33.Kb6?

After this move the advantage shifts to Black [33.Rc2! only move that keeps the balance. Now, neither side can make progress. 33...Rf4 34.Ra2 Rf5 35.Rc2=]

33...Nc4+ 34.Kc6 Rd5 35.f4?

loses on the spot [35.Re2#]

35...Rd6+?

Black's only mistake in the game. Wesley could have won with a nice [35...Rd7!-+ and due to various mate threats, White loses the passed pawn and the game]

36.Kc5 Nd2 37.a5!

I find the best moves to keep in the game [37.b6? Ne4+ 38.Kb5?? Nc3+ wins]

37...Kxc7 38.b6+ Kb8 39.Kb5

[39.a6? Ne4+]

39...Ne4 40.Ra1! Rd5+ 41.Kc6 Rd6+

[41...Kc8 42.Rc1! Rxa5 43.b7+ Kb8 44.Kb6 Nc5 (44...Rc5? 45.Ra1) 45.Rxc5 Rxc5 46.Kxc5 Kxb7 47.Kd4 Kc7 48.Ke5 Kd7=]

42.Kb5 Nc3+ 43.Kc5 Rd5+ 44.Kb4
[44.Kc6? Nb5!]

44...Ne4 45.Re1 Nc5 46.Kc4 Kb7
47.Rxe6!

Best try, otherwise Black plays ...Kc6 and untangles [47.g3 Kc6-+]

47...Nxe6 48.Kxd5 Nxf4+



49.Ke5?

I chose the wrong move. [49.Kc5! would draw with best play. This is a study-like draw: 49...Ne6+ (49...Nxc2 50.a6+! Kxa6 51.Kc6 Nf4 52.b7 Ka7 53.Kc7 Nd5+ 54.Kc8 Nb6+ 55.Kc7 Na8+ 56.Kc8=) 50.Kb5 (50.Kd5? Nd8-+) 50...Nd4+ 51.Kc5 Nf5 52.Kd5 Ne3+ 53.Kc5 e5 54.Kd6! e4 55.Ke5!= Nxc2 56.Kxe4 Nh4 57.Kf4 Black can't win]

49...Nxc2 50.Ke6 Nh4!

I simply missed that Black has time to win the h-pawn

51.Kxe7 Nf3 52.h3 Ng5 53.Kd6 Nxb3
54.Kc5 Nf4 55.Kb5 Nd5

I resigned as I can't stop him from sacing a knight for one of my pawns, and resulting King and Pawn endgame is easily winning
0-1

Hansen, Eric (2577) - Yam, Alex (2283) [B04]

(Annotated by: Hansen, E)

Heading into the final round I was needing a victory to finish within the top 3 so I viewed the game as a must-win.

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5
5.Nxe5 g6

I didn't expect the Alekhine's defence so I was already out of book.

6.Bc4

[6.c4 Nb6 7.Nc3 Bg7 8.Be3 Is another option]

6...c6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Re1

The e-file is a future battleground [8.Nc3 Be6]

8...0-0 9.c3

I opted for this solid set. With my bishop on c4 it makes more sense because I can't play pawn c4 easily anyways without obstructing my bishop. I also want to play Nd2 and at the moment I can't because of Nb6

9...Be6

Black doesn't have great squares to put his bishop so he goes for the plan of trading it off in combination with Nc7 [9...Nd7 10.Nf3 N7b6 11.Bb3 Bg4 12.Nbd2 Qc7 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Nxf3#]

10.Nd2 Nd7 11.Nef3!

Keeping the pieces on so that I make my space advantage felt more. [11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Ne4 b6 13.Ng5 Bf5=]

11...Nc7 Black wants to trade off pieces so he can move his pawns without having pieces in the way. The setup is a bit clumsy right now [11...b5!? 12.Bf1 N7b6; 11...Bg4 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Nxf3 e6 14.a4 Qc7 15.Bg5 Rfe8 16.Qd2± 1/2-1/2 Ivanov,A

(2415)-Kengis,E (2475) Pavlodar 1987]

12.Bf1

I'm willing to take extra time to find optimum squares for my pieces. Because of black's slow setup I felt I could afford to do this. Now I ask black what to do with the bishop on e6. [12.Bxe6 Nxe6 13.Qb3 Qb6 14.Nc4 Qc7 (14...Qxb3 15.axb3±) 15.Bd2 Should be ok for Black although white retains the more pleasant, spacious position since Black can't make c5 or e5 work yet. The knight on e6 is clumsy if it doesn't have a target.; 12.Qb3 Nb6 13.Bxe6 Nxe6 14.Ne4 Qd5 15.Nfg5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Rfe8 17.Bf4 Qxb3 18.axb3 Nd5 19.Bg3 a5 20.Nc5 b6 21.Nd3 Rac8= 1/2-1/2 Rausis,I (2560)-Kishnev,S (2510) Lublin 1993]

12...c5?!

A standard pawn thrust which attempts to equalize right away. The game continuation shows that this was too early. However there's not really any other appealing variations.

13.Nb3!

Despite the liberties I took in developing my pieces it seems that Black is already facing difficulties here.

13...cxd4 14.Nfxd4

I chose this knight because I had ideas of bringing my queen to f3

14...Bd5

This is an open position so black would not want to concede the bishops.

15.Bg5

Some space has cleared and as a result there is only one logical square for my bishop to develop [15.c4 Was my original intent but I found it harder to evaluate after the ensuing variation: 15...e5 16.cxd5 exd4 17.Nxd4 Nb6 18.Nf3 Qxd5 19.Bf4 Ne6 20.Be5 1/2-1/2 (20) Lau,R (2495)-Loeffler,S (2415) Germany 1996]

15...f6

This forced move definitely does not appeal aesthetically. The possible defects in Black's formation are revealed if he is forced to do this. [15...Bf6 16.Bxf6 Nxf6 17.c4 Be6 (17...Bc6 18.Nxc6 bxc6 19.Qxd8 Rfxd8 20.Rxe7±) 18.Qf3 Qc8 19.h3±; 15...Re8 16.c4 Be6 17.Qf3 Black is too passive here.]

16.Be3 [16.Nb5 e6 17.c4 Bc6 18.Be3 Nxb5 19.cxb5 Bd5 20.Rc1±]

16...a6?!

After the text Black finds himself in a big hole. Better was [16...Bf7 17.Qe2!? (17.Nb5 a6 18.Nxc7 Qxc7= e5 is coming; 17.Qf3 e5 18.Nb5 Nxb5 19.Bxb5 Qc7=) 17...Nd5 (17...e5 18.Nb5 Nxb5 19.Qxb5

Qc7 20.Rad1 Rfd8 21.g3 b6= Should be ok for Black) 18.Rad1]

17.c4 Bf7 18.Na5!

I gained the necessary time to make my setup work.

18...Qc8

[18...e5? 19.Nxb7 Qb8 20.Nc6 Qxb7 21.Qxd7 Be8 22.Na5 Bxd7 23.Nxb7 Rab8 24.Nc5+-]

19.b4

Supporting my knight and gaining more space. It goes hand in hand with Na5

19...e5 20.Ndb3 Rd8 21.Qf3

Where else?

21...b6 22.Nc6

[22.Nb7!? e4 23.Qxe4 Re8 24.Qc6 Ne5 25.Qxb6 I missed this move and thought my queen would get stuck 25...Nd7 26.Qd6! Bf8 27.Qd2 Qxb7 28.Qxd7 Rad8 29.Qa4± Is not easy to see]

22...Re8 23.Rad1±

I felt very good here. Black can try to gain space but he makes weaknesses at the same time

23...Re6?

Black has no coordination and this only makes it worse. Now the knight is pinned due to Rd8+. Don't forget about the poor guy on g7. [23...Bf8! And now I have to be careful as to not overextend. Those bishops are quite powerful on f7-f8 24.Rd2 e4 25.Qh3 Nb8! 26.Qxc8 Rxc8 27.Nxb8 Rcx8= 28.Bf4 Rc8]

24.b5

[24.c5! More forcing but I was enjoying the position and wanted to take it slow :) 24...e4 (24...bxc5 25.Nxc5 Nxc5 26.Rd8+ Qxd8 27.Nxd8 Rxd8 28.Bxc5+-) 25.Qh3 f5 26.cxb6 Rxc6 (26...Nxb6 27.Rd8+ Qxd8 28.Nxd8 Rxd8 29.Nc5±) 27.b7! Qxb7 28.Na5 Qxb4 29.Nxc6±]

24...Be8

[24...axb5 25.cxb5 Rxa2 26.Bc4 Re8 27.Bxf7+ Kxf7 28.Nd2 Kg8 29.Nc4+- Too many holes]

25.a4



I spent a lot of time here looking for a killer blow. It was unnecessary and I realized I should continue doing what I've done all game which is keep improving my pieces. The hedgehog idea of pushing a5 is also available now [25.c5? Very tempting, yet premature. 25...axb5! I trusted my opponent who is a strong calculator would find this critical variation (25...bxc5 26.Bc4+-; 25...Nxb5 26.Bc4) 26.cxb6 Nxb6 27.Bxb6 Bxc6÷]

25...Kh8 26.a5

Trying to get my second knight into the fray. Black is helpless

26...axb5 27.cxb5 bxa5

[27...e4 28.Qh3]

28.Nbxa5

One of the nicest positions I've ever commanded in my career. Almost everything is coordinated. The resulting moves are not hard to find

28...e4 29.Qh3 f5 30.Bc4 Re5

[30...Rf6 31.Bd4 Rf8 32.Ne7 Qb8 33.Nac6 Qb7 34.Nxe6+ Bxe6 35.Bxe7+ Kxe7 36.Rxd7+-]

31.Bd4 Rxb5

[31...Nxb5 32.Bxe5 Nxe5 33.Rd8 Nxc4 34.Rxc8 Rxc8 35.Ne7 Rc7 36.Nxc4 Rxe7+-; 31...Rxb5 32.Qc3 Ne5 33.Nxe5 Rbxa5 34.Nxe6+ hxe6 35.Qh3#]

32.Qc3

A nice finish to the game. Black's position has hardly changed in the last twenty moves as he just didn't have space. I felt like this was a good positional game that may have offered a glimpse as to why the Alekhine isn't very popular at the top level anymore due to the free space advantage offered to white. As a result of this final round win I snuck into the winners circle with 6/9 and = 2nd place. 1-0

So, Wesley (2705) - Mikhalevski, Victor (2551) [D90]

[Annotated by: Mikhalevski, V]



1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qa4+

The idea behind this check is to provoke

Black's bishop to d7. Then White can follow with advance of the e-pawn to e5 and since the d7-square is taken Black doesn't have a good retreat.

5...Bd7 6.Qb3

Somehow I managed to predict this relatively rare line, the fact that Wesley had already played it earlier undoubtedly helped in my preparation for the game.

6...dxc4 7.Qxc4 0-0 8.Bf4 Na6 9.e4 c5

Counter attacking in the centre.

10.e5 Be6!

Curiously, I decided to apply this idea after going over White's team- and roommate Ray Robson. [10...Nh5 is being considered to be the main line, but I don't like the position of the knight there despite beating this way Alexander Grischuk's wife and former Women European Champion Natalia Zhukova.]

11.exf6!

A necessity. White sacrifices the queen for three minor pieces, the idea, which is known from the so-called Anti-Gruenfeld. It's worth mentioning that any queen retreat would allow Black to jump with the knight to d5, which makes the whole idea of Qa4 and advance of the e-pawn senseless.

11...Bxc4 12.fxg7 Kxg7 13.Bxc4 cxd4

This is the position I was going for.

14.Rd1

[The afore-mentioned game featured 14.Be5+ f6 15.Bxd4 e5 16.Be3 Nb4 17.0-0 Nc2 18.Rad1 Qc7 19.Bb3 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Rac8 21.Kh1 Rfd8 22.Nd5 Qe5 and Black was fine in 1/2-1/2 Kaidanov,G (2594)-Robson,R (2614)/Saint Louis 2012.]

14...Qa5

Black is striving to an exchange of rooks and that's why he vacates the d8-square.

15.Be5+

[or 15.Rxd4 Rad8]

15...f6 16.Bxd4 Rfd8

Preparing 17...e5. [16...e5 17.Be3 Rfd8 is likely to transpose.]

17.0-0 e5 18.Be3 Rxd1

[18...Nb4 19.a3?! Nc2 20.Bd2 Nd4 21.Nxd4 Rxd4 22.Be2 Rad8³ allowed Black to obtain an advantage in 0-1 Galyas,M (2458)-Naumann,A (2546)/Germany 2011.]

19.Rxd1 Rd8!

Black would be happy to see all the rooks swapped.

20.Rc1

Obviously White wants to keep at least one pair of rooks. [In the only preceding game White played 20.Rxd8 Qxd8 21.Bxa7 Nb4!/? (21...Qc7 22.Bxa6 bxa6³

1/2-1/2 Kantor,G (2292)-Dolgener,T (2231)/Budapest 2011/CBM 145 Extra (30)]

20...Nb4!

Activating the knight I'm threatening with 21...Nd3.

21.Ne4 Nxa2

This capture is possible thanks to a nice tactical motive. [21...Nd3!/? could have still been played.]

22.Re1

[It turns out that 22.Ra1? can be met by 22...Nc3!!-+]

22...Nb4

Black won a pawn, but White gained a tempo for activation of his knight.

23.Nc5 Nc2

This move was based on a miscalculation. I missed White's 27th move. Nevertheless it can't be called a mistake as Black retains the upper hand. [23...Rc8 24.Nxb7 Qc7 25.Nc5 Qd6 26.Ne4 Qc6 27.Bf1 (27.b3 Nc2 28.Re2 Na3!± is pretty annoying for White.) 27...Nc2 28.Re2 Nxe3 29.Rxe3 Qb6± and Black is better, although far from winning.]

24.Nxb7 Qb4

[I saw that 24...Qxe1+ was enough for a draw, but considered my position to be better and thus rejected it. 25.Nxe1 Rd1 26.Bxa7 Nxe1! 27.Bf1 Rd7 28.Ba6 Rd1 29.Bf1= (29.g3? loses to 29...Ra1 30.Nc5 Nd3+-+ winning a piece.)]

25.Nxd8 Qxc4

[In case of 25...Nxe1 26.Ne6+ Kh8 27.b3 Nxf3+ 28.gxf3 I considered White's position solid enough. 28...a5 29.Nc5 (29.Bh6 a4! Simply ignoring White's "threats". 30.Nd8 a3 31.Nf7+ Kg8 32.Be6 (32.Nxe5+ Qxc4 33.Nxc4 a2 is winning for Black.) 32...Qe7 33.Bc4 a2 34.Nxe5+ Kh8 35.Nf7+ Qxf7 36.Bxf7 a1Q+ 37.Kg2 g5-+ and the darksquared bishop is trapped.) 29...g5±]

26.Rc1 Qd5

This is the position I went for while playing 23...Nc2. [26...Qd3 27.Ne6+ Kf7 28.Neg5+ (28.Nc5 Qe2) 28...Ke8 29.Ne1 Nxe1 30.Nxh7 Nc2 31.Nxf6+ Ke7 32.Ng4 Nxe3 33.Nxe3 a5±]

27.Ne6+ Kf7 28.Bd2!

A very strong idea! Unfortunately, I can't escape with my knight.

28...Qb3

[or 28...e4 29.Nf4 (29.Rxc2 exf3 30.Nc5 fxg2) 29...Qb3 30.Ne1 Nxe1 31.Bxe1 Qxb2 32.Rc7+ Kg8 33.g3!]=]

29.Nd8+!

Another strong idea.

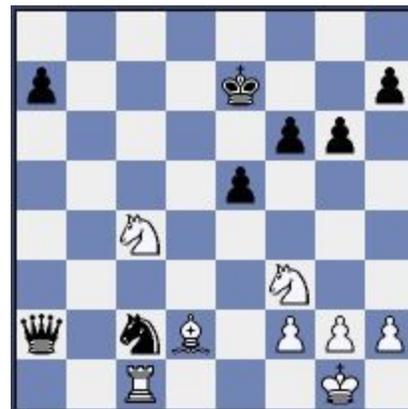
29...Ke8 30.Nb7!

This is the point.

30...Qxb2 31.Nd6+

Finally the knight is heading back.

31...Ke7! 32.Nc4 Qa2!



33.Ne3!?

White exchanges the annoying knight on c2. [33.Na5 g5± is slightly better for Black.]

33...Nxe3!

[33...Nd4 34.Nxd4 exd4 35.Nc4]

34.Bxe3 a5

Time to show my trumps.

35.Nd2 a4 36.h4!

A necessary luft. Now the rook can leave the back rank.

36...Qd5

Centralizing my queen, which had only a limited freedom of movement. [The computer's line goes 36...Ke6 37.Rc6+ Kd7 38.Rxf6 a3 39.Ra6 Qa1+ 40.Kh2 a2 41.g3 Qb2 42.Ra7+ Kc8 43.Nc4 Qb1 44.Nb6+ Kb8 45.Nd7+ Kc8 46.Nb6+= with perpetual.]

37.Rc5 Qd3 38.Ra5 Qc2 39.Kh2!

Safety of the king is really important here.

39...h5

An inaccuracy. [It wasn't easy to understand that 39...Kd7! was better.]

40.f3

White is getting the e4-square for his knight.

40...Qd3 41.Bh6!

Now I can't stop Ne4 and so it's necessary to be very careful in order to maintain the balance.

41...Qd4 42.Ne4 Qb4?

Only this move hands the advantage to Black. [42...f5! was better with the idea 43.Bg5+ Ke8 44.Nc5 Qd5! I didn't see this idea. 45.Be3 e4 46.Rxa4 exf3 47.g3 Qd1= with a roughly equal position.; 42...Kf7!/? is another interesting option. 43.Bd2 (43.Ra6 f5 44.Nd6+ Kg8 45.Bg5 e4 46.Bf6 Qxf6 47.Ra8+ Kh7 48.Ra7+ Kh6 49.Nf7+ Kg7 50.Ne5+=) 43...f5 44.Bc3 Qe3

45.Ng5+ Kf6 46.Bb2 Qf4+ 47.Kh3 Ke7 48.Bxe5 Qe3 with compensation, although it looks dangerous for Black after for example, 49.Kh2!±]

43.Bd2?!

Wesley returns the favor. [Starting with 43.Ra7+! was much better. 43...Kd8 44.Bd2 Suddenly Black gets under attack. 44...Qd4 45.Ra6+-]

43...Qd4

Now the a7-square is taken and Black is back in the game.

44.Bc3 Qe3 45.Bd2 Qd4 46.Be1?

[46.Bc3 Qe3 47.Bb4+± is better for White, although his advantage is far from being decisive.]

46...Kf7?

Being short on time I blundered. [46...f5! Left chances for a draw, although it's almost impossible to defend the position in a practical game. Here is a possible follow-up. 47.Bc3 Qc4 48.Rxe5+ (48.Ra7+ Kf8 49.Ra8+ Ke7 50.Re8+ Kd7 51.Nf6+ Kc7 52.Bxe5+ Kb7 53.f4 Qa2=) 48...Kd8 49.Ba5+ Kd7 50.Rc5 Qa2! 51.Rc7+ Ke6 52.Nc5+ Kd6 53.Rc8 Qf2 54.Bc7+ Kd5 55.Bg3 Qc2 56.Rd8+ Kc4 57.Ne6 Qa2 58.Rd4+ Kb5 59.Nc7+ Kc5 60.Rd6 Kc4 with roughly equal chances thanks to the strong a-pawn and an active king.]

47.Bf2 Qb4?

Loses on the spot. [The relatively better 47...Qb2 doesn't save the game. 48.Rxa4 f5 49.Ra7+ Ke6 50.Ng5+ Kd5 51.Ra5+ Kc4 52.Bg3+-]

48.Ra7+- Ke8

[Unfortunately 48...Ke6 runs into 49.Rxa4+-]

49.Nxf6+ Kd8 50.Ra8+

51.Nd5 wins the queen and so I resigned. A tough, but interesting game. 1-0

Wang, Richard (2365) - Van Kampen, Robin (2580) [E90]

(annotated by Van Kampen, R)

Calgary Chess Classic 2013 Calgary (6), Dear Readers, my name is Robin van Kampen. I'm an 18 year old GM from The Netherlands currently rated 2606 and I recently played my first tournament in Canada; the Calgary Chess Classic. I had a great time since I got to visit my friend GM Eric Hansen and combine playing a fun tournament with a holiday. Here I'll analyze my game for you against a young talented player from Alberta: Richard Wang.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6

The King's Indian Defence is one of my favorite openings when I'm ambitious to unbalance the game as black.

6.h3

An interesting waiting move which stops ideas connected to knight or Bg4 and at the same time waits for black to show his intentions with either c5 in a Benoni structure or e5 after which a typical King's Indian arises.

6...e5 7.d5 Nh5!

In my opinion the right way to fight against the h3 line. Black tries to play f5 as soon as possible trying to show that h3 might have been a waste of time, or utilize the slightly weakened f4 square. 8.g3 [8.Nh2 is another move, stopping f5 due to exf5 when black can't play the natural gxf5. Now after 8...Na6 It's a complicated game.] 8...a5 A typical move trying to safeguard the c5 square for the knight from b8 without having to deal with b4 ideas. [8...f5 Is dangerous for black in my opinion, after: 9.exf5 gxf5 10.Ng5 Nf6 11.g4! A complicated position arises which I prefer to avoid since black's e can easily become weak due to the light squares.; 8...Na6 Is more provocative, black intends to play Nc5 and when white reacts with b4 he'll play Nd7 and try to open up the Queenside with a5.]

9.Be2 Na6 10.Bg5?!



A provocative move which makes little sense to me. [10.Nh2! Kicking back the N and therefore slowing down black's dynamic ideas on the kingside, would have given white a small edge: 10...Nf6 11.Ng4 Nc5 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Be3 b6 14.h4 and white can continue with fc2 0-0-0 with some ideas to attack on the Kingside.] 10...f6 11.Bc1

Played after a long think by my opponent, clearly he wasn't satisfied with his position after: [11.Be3 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 Because f4 would kick back his B once again with a

tempo, however after the move 13.Rg1! The position is very unclear]

11...f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.Nh4 Nf6

[13...Nf4! Would have been stronger, taking over the initiative immediately]

14.g4?! A good idea but played in the wrong moment. White tries to provoke black to play f4 and continue to take control over the light squares. Here however he is too underdeveloped due to his loss of tempo with the Bg5 Bc1 manoeuvre. [14.Bg5 Nc5 15.Ng2 Qe8 Black is only slightly better.]

14...f4 15.Ng2 Nc5 16.f3 Bd7 17.0-0 c6! Opening up a second front. Now the e can go to b6 and white lacks ideas to untangle his pieces.

18.Bd3 cxd5 19.cxd5 b5!?



Very active but imprecise, better was to take on d3 first. Now white could fight with:

20.Ne4?

[20.Bxb5! Bxb5 21.Nxb5 Qb6 22.Nc3 And only after I played b5 I realized that my intended trick with: 22...Nb3+ fails to (22...Nce4+! 23.Kh2 Ng3 24.Rg1 Qf2! Black is still close to winning) 23.Be3! fxe3 24.Qxb3 When white is suddenly on top]

20...Nfxe4 21.Bxe4 Nxe4 22.fxe4 h5+-

Now it's just over. Black gets his typical Kings Indian pawn storm supported by the Bishops and the heavy pieces, while white hasn't achieved anything on the Queenside. 23.gxh5 Bxh3 24.Qf3 Bd7 25.Bd2 Qg5 26.Rac1 Bg4 27.Qf2 Bxh5

Black is a pawn up and will inevitably create a mating attack on the h or g-file 28.Qh4 Qg6 29.Kh2 Bf6 30.Qe1 Ra7! Bringing in the last piece.

31.Rc3 Bg4 32.Kg1 Rh7 33.Qf2 Qh5

Richard resigned as a mate will soon follow. 0-1

GM Eric Hansen exits in the first round of the World Cup

By: Vlad Rekhson

Calgarian Eric Hansen is currently the highest rated player in Canada and last year he proved his status as he qualified to the World Cup by taking one of the four available spots at the Pan-American Championship.



GM Hansen interviewed by Susan Polgar
Photo credit: Paul Truong

The World Cup is a very unforgiving event where 128 players play in a knock-out format. Eric first took part in this tournament two years ago when he was overmatched by the Azerbaijani Super-Grandmaster Vugar Gashimov.

This time Eric certainly had a lot more going for him, as he had a much higher rating and a ton more experience playing in top events.

In the first round Eric who is rated 2584 was facing the 33rd ranked Russian-Vladimir Malakhov (2707). One interesting fact about GM Malakhov is that he also used to be a nuclear physicist; however, he only does it part time now, as in Russia a strong chess Grandmaster earns considerably more than a physicist! In the first game, Eric had the black pieces and it appeared that he had a decent position out of the opening. After some complications, Eric got a bishop for three pawns. It appeared that this was a good trade-off, but that is when the Super Grandmaster showed his ability as it quickly turned out that the central connected passers were virtually unstoppable.

In the second game, Eric was in a must win situation. He bypassed the Berlin defense by playing d3 and entered a promising looking position.

Unfortunately, he missed a winning chance that he had and had to settle for a draw, thus ending his event. Still, his performance was considerably better than two years ago, and losing to a very strong Grandmaster after a good fight is nothing to be ashamed of as Eric enters the professional European season.

Hansen, Eric (2584) - Malakhov, Vladimir (2707)
WorldCup 2013 (2.31), 12.08.2013
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 Be5 5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 Re8 7.Re1 Bf8 8.d4 exd4 9.e5 Nd5 10.Qb3 Nb6 11.cxd4 d5 12.Bg5 Qd7 13.Rc1 a6 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Nbd2 a5 16.Qc2 Bb7 17.a4 Nc4 18.Nf1 Qe6 19.h3 Nb6 20.Ng3 Nd7 21.Be3 c5 22.Qc3 c6 23.dxc5 Nxe5 24.Nxe5 Qxe5 25.Bd4 Qg5 26.Re1 h5 27.h3 h4 28.Nf1 Rxe1 29.Rxe1 Be8 30.Nh2 Bd7 31.Nf3 Qh6 32.Ne5 Be8 33.Ng4 Qf4 34.Re5 f5



35.Be3?
[35.Ne3 g6 36.Rxd5!! Bf7 (36...cxd5 37.Nxd5 Qb8 38.Nf6+ Kf7 39.Qc4+ Ke7 40.Nd5+ Kd8 41.c6 Qd6 42.c7+ Kc8 43.Nb6+ Kb7 (43...Qxb6+-) 44.c8Q+ Rxc8 45.Qxc8+ Ka7 46.Qa8#) 37.Rd7 And White has a healthy extra pawn] **35...d4 36.Qc4+ Bf7 37.Qxf7+ Kxf7 38.Bxf4 fxe4 39.hxe4 g6 40.Kf1 Ra7 41.Bd2 Rb7 42.Bxa5 Rxb3 43.Bb6 d3 44.Re1 1/2-1/2**

In Memoriam

RIP Chris Kuczaj

10.28.1944-05.18.2013

By Jim Daniluk



It is with a great deal of sadness that I announce the passing of Chris Kuczaj. He was a fixture of our chess community for decades and was one of the stronger Alberta Players in the 1970s winning the 1972 and 1975 Alberta Open. Chris was an electrical engineer by trade and he enjoyed mathematics, as well as chess. Chris had a substantial chess library which after his passing was spread around the Alberta Chess community, with some of the books going to the Calgary Chess Club, as well as other clubs in the province. We would like to thank the Kuczaj family for their support in the matter. Chris will be greatly missed by those who knew and played against him over the years.

McLean, Nathan (1945) - Kuczaj, Chris (2120) [B80]

Battle of AB (2), 1997

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 d6 6.g3 a6 7.Bg2 Bd7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Kh1 Be7 10.f4 0-0 11.f5 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 exf5 13.exf5 Bc6 14.Bf4 Qc7 15.Rad1 Bxg2+ 16.Kxg2 Qc6+ 17.Kh3 Rfd8 18.g4 d5 19.g5 Bc5 20.Qd2 d4 21.Ne2 Ne4 22.Qd3 g6 23.f6 Qe6+ 24.Kh4 Rd5 25.Ng3 h5 26.h3



Nxf6 27.Rfe1 Qc6 28.Ne4 Nxe4 29.Qxe4 Qd7 30.c4 Rf5 31.a3 a5 32.Re2 Rd8 33.Kg3 Bd6 34.Rf2 Rxe5+ 35.Kh4 Rf5 36.Kg3 Rxf4 37.Rxf4 g5 38.Rg1 Bxf4+ 39.Kf3 Qxh3+ 40.Kf2 Qe3+ 0-1





Lethbridge Open 2013

by: Aaron Sequillion

The 2013 edition of the Lethbridge open attracted 27 participants, the largest in its history, from all around Alberta; 6 from Edmonton, 2 from Calgary, 1 from Fort MacMurray, as well as 3 junior locals who made their tournament chess debut. Aaron Sequillion from Edmonton won the event with a score of 4.5/5, closely followed by ACA Executive Director and recent Calgarian defector Vladislav Rekhson with 4/5. Vlad's early draw with long-time Lethbridge veteran Jack Davies in round 1 paved the way for Aaron to sneak into 1st after the two drew their 4th round encounter.

1st(overall) - Aaron Sequillion 4.5/5
 2nd(overall) - NM Vlad Rekhson 4/5
 1st and 2nd u1800 - John Quiring, Garth Dunn 3.5/5
 1st and 2nd u-1600 - Paul "The Prof" Viminitz, Jack Davies 3/5
 1st u1400 - Roulei Han 2/5
 2nd u1400 - Kurt Berndtsson 1.5/5

It is the opinion of this author that the Lethbridge open is the most enjoyable tournament on the already loaded ACA tournament calendar. What makes this tournament so worthwhile is mostly the atmosphere; Whereas some tournaments such as the Alberta Open offer good prizes and entry into the Alberta Closed, and the Calgary and Edmonton Internationals provide talented locals with norm chances, the Lethbridge Open succeeds in offering local players the best atmosphere of any tournament I've played here in Alberta. The mood is relaxed and jovial, thanks in large part to the players themselves, but also the very nice hotel where it is held each year, the Lethbridge Lodge. Let's not forget of course the now infamous wine and cheese party that organizer Paul Vimintiz hosts at his home on Saturday

night after the 3rd round. Players can gorge on a wide variety of alcoholic beverages, as well as snack on nice finger foods while chatting on just about anything, not just chess! Thank Heaven. For me, this type of tournament is just what I love; less about the actual chess, more about the camaraderie, as if chess was just another tool for competitive and spiritual satisfaction. If it isn't already obvious, I highly recommend this tournament to all chess players throughout Alberta, you'll have a great time I swear. I'd like to thank organizer Paul Viminitz for organizing this excellent event each year, as well as billeting some out-of-town players, Peter Davis-Imhof for directing, Lethbridge Chess Club president Andy Davies for being the lightning rod of conversation at the W&C, and Vlad Rekhson for not beating me in round 4 as he should have.

Quiring, John (1760) - Sequillion, Aaron (2111) [E62]

Lethbridge Open 2013, 06.04.2013
 [Annotated by: Sequillion, A]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.c4 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 e5 8.Bg5

More ambitious would have been d5 seizing space in the centre.

8...h6 9.dxe5?!

Now black unbalances the position in his favour.

9...hgx5 10.exf6

It was at this moment that I already started to envision the caveman-like attack I would play.

10...Bxf6 11.Qd2 g4 12.Ne1 Kg7

The start of one of my more ridiculous conceptions.

13.Nd3 Rh8 14.Ne4 Be5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.c5

This move makes some sense, John obviously recognizes that I have some intentions toward his king and therefore wants to open up the centre to distract me. Better would have been.. [16.f4 gxf3 17.exf3 Bf5 18.Rae1 And now it looks as though black is the one who will need to worry about his king.]

16...d5 17.Qd4 f6 18.Nc3

[18.Rad1]

18...c6 19.Rfd1 Qg8

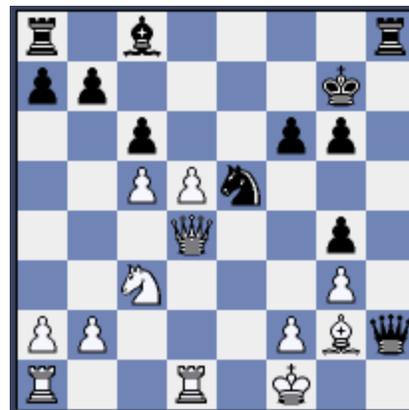
And now my idea is obvious. This was what I had intended to play all the way back on move 10 when I played Bxf6. Fortunately, the centre is now more or less

stable and my play will be more successful than if the centre was fluid.

20.e4?

A very logical-looking but losing move. Fatally weakening the f3 square which my knight can now invade with deadly threats.

20...Qh7 21.exd5 Qxh2+ 22.Kf1



b6!

Now the bishop on c8 can participate on a6.

23.Be4 Re8

The rook is no longer needed on h8, on e8 it makes the white king nervous about trying to cross over the e-file. **24.Qa4** [24.Ke2 Nf3 25.Qc4 Ng5 and white is falling apart.]

24...b5 25.Qb3 b4 26.Ne2 Ba6 27.d6 Nf3
 And mate is coming. **0-1**

Brad Willis finishes fourth at Canadian Seniors Championship

By: Vlad Rekhson

Alberta Seniors Champion, Bradley J. Willis represented our province at the Canadian Seniors Championship. The tournament took place in Kitchener, ON between August 2nd and 5th. The 7 round tournament was open to any player who was born before January 1st, 1953. The winner of the event received a subsidized travel to the World Seniors Championship which is scheduled for Croatia in November.

Bradley had a very solid performance as he finished with 4.5/7 including 2 wins, no losses and 5 draws! Unfortunately that was just behind the winners as Istvan Kiss (first on tie-break), William Doubleday and Ralph Deline all scored 5/7.

According to Mr. Willis, he did have a few missed opportunities, as he had winning chances in four of the draws, but it wasn't to be this time.



announcements from Tournament Director Atheer Jawad and Organizer Frank Kluytmans. This is a good time to commend the job done by the two of them which made the tournament the participants feel comfortable and allowed them to concentrate only on their play.

As the pairings were done a week ahead of time, most players came into the event fairly well prepared, thus there wasn't much need for last minute preparations.

IM Richard Wang-GM Eric Hansen
1/2-1/2



Eric had to meet one of his main potential rivals right away. This game was mostly based on home preparation as the two played out a known variation until Eric's new move 21... Be6. The game only lasted 3 more moves as Richard offered a draw and Eric felt that he didn't have any real chance to play that position for a win.

IM Edward Porper-FM Vladimir Pechenkin 1-0

Unlike the previous game, the next game, entered new territory on move 5! This is not unusual for those two as opening like 1. b3 have been a common occurrence between the two. IM Porper implanted a knight on e6 and by the time that it was taken it looked like Vlad's position would be quite difficult to defend.

NM Yam-NM Rekhson 1/2-1/2

As I entered this tournament, I figured that my first round encounter was going to be my best if not the only chance to score anything in this event. Alex opened with his typical c3 Sicilian but surprised me already with 6. dxc5 which is of course a possible move in this variation, but for some reason not something that I expected Alex to play, even though as I found out later, that is actually his main line. I played theory for a while, but started to go astray after 15...Be6? I got into trouble on the e file and was trying to hang on. I set up one trick, which Alex actually fell for as I was able to win a pawn with: 28... Nxc6. Alex was putting up quite a bit of resistance, but the endgame was still won

GM Hansen wins strongest Alberta Championship in history

By: Vlad Rekhson

(all the games described above are available in the PGN file at:

www.albertachess.org/ACR.html)

The 2013 Alberta Closed Chess Championship was the strongest in history. The tournament which took place in a Round-Robin format over the Easter weekend had the following participants:

1. GM Eric Hansen (Calgary, 2588 CFC, 2557 FIDE)
2. IM Edward Porper (Edmonton, 2492 CFC, 2418 FIDE)
3. IM Richard Wang (Edmonton, 2460 CFC, 2376 FIDE)
4. FM Vladimir Pechenkin (Edmonton, 2417 CFC, 2357 FIDE)
5. NM Alex Yam (Calgary, 2380 CFC, 2275 FIDE)
6. NM Vlad Rekhson (Calgary, 2135 CFC, 2093 FIDE).

From this list it is clear that there are two participants who clearly stand out. The first one is of course, GM Eric Hansen. After he became, Alberta's first ever Grandmaster, Eric's successes around the globe were impressive and numerous, so it appeared that winning the provincial title was a no-brainer. Still, a few obstacles had to be conquered. While Eric has a surprisingly dominating score against IM Edward Porper, even going back to Eric's more modest years; a couple other tournament participants have given Eric trouble in the past. IM Richard Wang

actually defeated Eric in their last encounter during the 2012 Canadian Open; A tournament which Eric won in a convincing fashion. NM Alex Yam lost to Eric in their last game, but he previously gave Eric plenty of trouble. The other participant who clearly stands out from the list is yours truly. In fact, how did I even make it to such a tournament? To answer that, we need to stop for a moment and discuss the qualification process to the AB Closed. The regulations of the event state that four participants qualify by winning qualifying events, while two more qualify by rating. It so happened that the first five players were the highest rated who potentially could have participated, while I was the only one whose rating was clearly not high enough. Instead I won my spot by winning the Southern Alberta Open. That tournament was clearly not as strong as the other qualifiers, but still had a couple of masters, which I was lucky enough to edge based on better tie-breaks. Needless to say that heading into the event, becoming the new Alberta Champion was not a goal which I set for myself. In fact, I was quite worried of being wiped out in every game and finishing with zero points. I figured that while even scoring half a point was going to be somewhat of an achievement, my minimum goal was to score at least 1/5, thus matching my last appearance in the Alberta Closed back in 2011.

Round 1, Friday, March 29th.

The first round took place on Friday evening following some short opening

for me, for example instead of 42... Kf5, 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Bg7 6.dxc5 Qxc5 7.Na3!?

Round 2, Saturday, March 30th

GM Hansen-NM Rekhson 1-0

Obviously this was going to be the most predictable result of the tournament. I tried to surprise Eric with the Petroff line which most of those who just learned to play chess, know to avoid. Eric didn't want to have anything to do with taking risks by running into some preparation and played 4. d4. Before the game I actually saw that the majority of strong players who encountered this line actually preferred to play it this way, but somehow I thought that 3 minutes of preparation in it was going to be enough. I did get Eric out of book, but I was out of it as well. Still, I was relatively in the game after the opening, but soon after my position collapsed.

IM Wang-IM Porper 0-1

Richard played his usual Torre attack. Normally he performs quite well in the ensuing positions, but in this game, something went wrong. It appears that 22. h4 was uncalled for, while both sides didn't play perfectly after that, Edward never relinquished his advantage.

FM Pechenkin-NM Yam ½-½

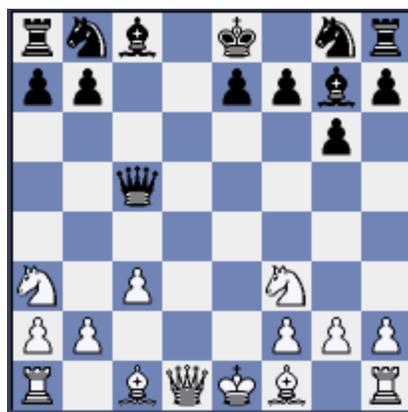
Vlad played the Reti opening and Alex played the rare 4... Qd5. Perhaps he was hoping to copy the game Mchedlishvili, M (2618)-Zhigalko, S (2689) from 2011, where black used the active queen to win the game. Vlad used a different move order early on and eventually the game ended in an interesting endgame where he got a knight for two pawns, but Alex defended properly and secured the draw.

Round 3, Saturday, March 30th

NM Yam-IM Wang 1-0

Alex allowed Richard to win an exchange on a1, for the price of the g7 Bishop. It seemed like quite a dangerous thing to do and Richard wasn't able to defend that position.

Yam,Alex (2380) - Wang,Richard (2460) [B06]



Bxc3+?! 8.bxc3 Qxc3+ 9.Qd2 Qxa1 10.Bc4 Qg7 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Bxf7+ Qxf7 13.Nxf7 Kxf7 14.Nc4 Nc6 15.f4 Bf5 16.Ne5+ Kg7 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.0-0 Rhd8 19.Qc3 Rac8 20.Re1 Rc7 21.Ba3 Kf7 22.Qe5 Rdd7 23.h3 h5 24.Kh2 Rb7 25.Qc5 Rbc7 26.Qe5 Rb7 27.Qc5 Rbc7 28.Re5 Nd5 29.Kg3 Nf6 30.Kh4 Kg7 31.Bb4 Kf7 32.Ba5 Rc8 33.Bb4 Rcc7 34.Qc4+ Kg7 35.Bc3 Bd3 36.Qc5 Kf7 37.Ba5 Rc8 38.Bb4 Nd5?

(38...Rcc7 would keep black in the game but with a difficult position)
39.Rxd5 1-0

NM Rekhson-FM Pechenkin 0-1

I tried to play an off-beat line of the Alekhine against Vlad Pechenkin. Didn't really play it very well, as my opponent won a pawn and followed it up with showing that he knows Capablanca's lessons of pawn endgames.

IM Porper-GM Hansen 0-1

This was a crucial game of the tournament. Prior to this round, IM Porper was up by half a point, with his last two games scheduled against the two lowest rated participants. This meant that a draw would give him an excellent chance to win the title. Unfortunately, Eric has been a very unpleasant opponent for Edward, even going back to Eric's more modest days. This time, Edward tried the Trompowsky but was not able to stave off some nice tactics from Eric.

Porper,Edward (2494) - Hansen,Eric (2588) [D00]



After 27. Nc3

Bb4 28.Na2 bxa4 29.bxa4 Bd6 30.Bc4 c5 31.d5 Re4 32.Qd3 Bxa4 33.Nc3 Rb4 34.Ba2 Re7 35.g4 fxg4 36.e4 Bxf4 37.d6 Qxd6 38.Qxd6 Bxd6 39.Nd5 Ra7 40.e5 Bf8 41.Nxb4 cxb4 0-1

Round 4, Sunday, March 31st

Going into the last day of the event, Eric Hansen has ascended to first place as expected. His next two opponents were relatively dangerous, thus IM Porper could still hope for a small miracle which would have to involve Eric losing a full point and winning both games himself.

GM Hansen-FM Pechenkin 1-0

GM Hansen,Eric (2588) – FM Pechenkin,Vladimir (2428) [B04]
Alberta Tournament 2013 - Closed
(Annotated by: Rekhson, V)

Eric prepared a dangerous exchange sacrifice against Vlad, the night before the game. While Vlad looked at it before, it wasn't fresh in his memory and he clearly wasn't prepared for the dangers.

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 5.Nxe5 c6 6.Be2 Bf5 7.0-0 Nd7 8.Nf3 h6 9.c4 Nb4 10.Nc3 Nc2 11.Rb1 Nb4 12.Be3! Bxb1 13.Qxb1

White seems to have good compensation for the sacrificed exchange. He has a clear lead in development, much better centre and the two bishops. We can also add a couple of intangibles to the position, like the fact that Eric had this position at home the night before and that he is very comfortable playing an exchange down.

13...e6?!

Canadian Veteran IM, Leon Piasetski tried a different strategy and was more successful. Leon tried to expand on the Kingside while keeping the King safe in

the centre behind the e pawn [13...g5 14.a3 Na6 15.d5 c5 16.b4 Rc8 17.Ne4 Bg7 18.bxc5 Naxc5 19.Nd4 Qb6 20.Qc2 Bxd4 21.Bxd4 Qg6 22.Bxh8 Qxe4 23.Qxe4 Nxe4 And black successfully defended the position for a draw. (T. Baron (2410)-L. Piasecki (2288) Jerusalem, 2009).; Another attempt to defend the position via a kingside fianchetto continued as follows: 13...g6 14.a3 Na6 15.d5 Bg7 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.Nd4 Rc8 18.f4 Qa5 19.f5 g5 20.Ne4 Qe5 21.Nf3 This was a mistake, but it seems like black is doing ok even after something like 21. b4. The game continued 21...Qxb2 22.Qd3 Ne5 23.Nxe5 Rd8 24.Qxd8+ Kxd8 25.Nxf7+ And black won soon after. Ootes, L (2376) Loeffler, S (2423) Vienna, 2011)]

14.a3 Na6 15.d5!

Black is undeveloped and uncastled, so white wants to open as many lines as possible.

15...exd5?!

[15...e5 Mi+6ght have been a more stubborn defense 16.Ne4 Be7 17.d6 Bf6 18.b4 0-0± Black's position looks miserable but at least he is castled]

16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Bd4 Nc7 18.Re1 Ne6 19.Bb5 a6



20.Rxe6+!!

Finishing off in style

20...fxe6 21.Ne5

[21.Ne5 axb5 22.Qg6+ Ke7 23.Qf7+ Kd6 24.Nxb5#] 1-0

IM Wang-NM Rekhson 1-0

Richard needed to recover from a bad day on Saturday. I wasn't able to provide much of a resistance against the Torre, as I misevaluated the position and allowed Richard to take over the kingside and the centre and with that the game.

IM Porper-NM Yam 1-0

Edward opened up the centre early in the relatively rare variation of the Dutch defense. Despite being down by two pawns at one point, Edward made Alex pay for having an exposed king

Round 5, Sunday, March 31st.

The last round had two very short games for different reasons. First, Vladimir Pechenkin and Richard Wang agreed to a quick draw, as they both decided that there wasn't much for them to play for and they were better off taking off and getting extra driving time to Edmonton. It was a different situation in the Yam-Hansen pair. Eric needed a draw to clinch the title. Edward Porper could still catch him on points; however, while the cash prizes of \$300 and \$200 would be split, the major prize of the tournament, which was \$2000 travel reward, could only go to one participant and due to the fact that Eric won the head-to-head game against Edward his tie-breaks would be better. Furthermore, traditionally, Alex has been a fairly inconvenient opponent for Eric, beating and drawing him when Eric was already an IM. Thus, Eric decided that risking it was unnecessary.

All of that meant that Edward Porper and I were left alone to finish off the tournament and the length of our game probably made up for the shortness of the other two.

NM Yam-GM Hansen ½-½

FM Pechenkin-IM Wang ½-½

Both games finished in very quick draws.

NM Rekhson-IM Porper ½-½

I felt that I got a pretty satisfactory position out of the opening, as it kind of looked like an Exchange Ruy-Lopez with black not having the two bishops. Unfortunately, after a fairly long think I came up with a horrendous 13. g3?? and

after Bh3 it looked like it was all over for me. Fortunately, I found the one try for a defense with 16. Nb3 followed by 18. Na5. The idea was that if Edward's rook would infiltrate to d2 I could play Nc4 and if he would take on c2 I would have a fork on his c2 rook and g4 Bishop with Ne3.

Edward maintained an advantage, but his only mistake of the game came at the perfect time as far as I was concerned. He played 22... Nb4 allowing the 23.Re4 skewer. Instead, black would keep the advantage with something like 22... Be6. Afterwards the position was very drawish. Edward spent nearly 50 more moves trying pretty much every opportunity to outplay me but I was able to keep it within the limits of a draw.

In the end, GM Eric Hansen emerged as the winner. It was great to have Eric in our provincial event and hopefully having a Grandmaster in our provincial event, will not be a one time occurrence.

I would like to thank all the competitors for making the tournament a friendly and exciting event to be a part of!

2013 AB Reserves

The 2013 AB Reserves was an open event which took place alongside the Championship. A total of 25 players took part in the tournament ranging from National Masters Dan Kazmaier and Rob Gardner to players rated below 1000. In the end the two masters shared first with 4/5 each. They drew each other, took one half point bye each and defeated the other players. Best under 2200 was shared by Richard Pua, Itohan Gold and junior Nicholas Lee, who was also best under 1800. All three scored 3.5/5. Second under 1800 was shared by: Steve Sklenka and junior Chenxi Zhao with 3/5 each. Best under 1400 was shared by juniors: Ian Zhao, Chenxi Wu, and Zeling Li with 2/5 each.

2013 AB Closed Final Crosstable

#	Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	GM Eric Hansen	1	1	1/2	1/2	1	1	4
2	IM Edward Porper	0	1	1	1	1	1/2	3.5
3	NM Alex Yam	1/2	0	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	2.5
4	IM Richard Wang	1/2	0	0	1/2	1	1	2
5	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	0	0	1/2	1/2	1	1	2
6	NM Vlad Rekhson	0	1/2	1/2	0	0	1	1

19th Annual Medicine Hat Open

October 5&6, 2013

Room 5 (upstairs) at the **Gas City Kiwanis Centre** (an old red brick 2 storey school).

This is located at 826 - 11th St. S.E., just off Maple Avenue close to the Outdoorsman.

5 round swiss, CFC rated

Organizer: Medicine Hat Chess Club

Tournament Director: Dr. Bill Taylor

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 seconds

Times: Saturday-10:15am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, Sunday-9am, 1pm

Entry Fee: Free to players rated 2300+. \$30 adult, \$25 junior, if paid in advance, add \$5 late fee at the door. No prize option:\$15. (CFC Membership required and may be purchased on-site. Players who wish to purchase a tournament membership need to add \$21 (adults) or \$11 (juniors) to entry.

Registration: Pre-register in Medicine Hat, pay Bill Taylor at the club. In Calgary, pay Vlad Rekhson at the Calgary Chess Club. Cash only. Limit of 40 players, first come, first serve basis. Pre-registration strongly encouraged. On-site registration, Saturday, October 5 from 9-9:45am.

Prizes: Entries (less \$5 per player ACA dues) + merchandise. Prize sections will be determined at the start of the tournament, based on the rating distribution of the players who enter. 1st and 2nd place plaques, permanent trophy nameplate.

Misc: View World's largest chess set downtown Medicine Hat Saturday and Sunday afternoon, weather permitting. Extensive chess library with antique chess books (some over 100 years old). Free snacks, drinks and dessert on Saturday night. Lunch for a buck on Sunday. Jokes! A limited number of billets are available, contact Bill Taylor to request your billet.

For more info, contact Dr. Bill Taylor (403) 526-5484 (H); (403) 529-0221 (W) or email

E-mail: taylormw@shaw.ca

Or Vlad Rekhson at vrekhson@yahoo.ca

(403) 970-8032

This is a *Road Warrior* Event!



Also sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association



Medicine Hat Chess Club

Next Step Residential Services
Building

Rm. 5, 826 - 11th St. S.E.

Wednesdays

mid-September to mid-June

Contact: Bill Taylor 403.526.5484

403.527.3574,

taylormw@shaw.ca

2013 Battle of Alberta

Sep 7, 2013

Red Deer Lodge, Pine Lake Room

Team North Vs. Team South (Red Deer river and 52° 16' 5" N is the dividing point).

Team North Captain: Micah Hughey

mhughe@rocketmail.com

Team South Captain: Vlad Rekhson

vrekhson@yahoo.ca



Tournament rules

12 players in each team.

Team captains assemble teams.

Board order will be determined by rating (the higher of CFC, FIDE, or other official rating if the person doesn't possess CFC and FIDE established ratings).

Two games played against the same opponent. Total score will count to determine the winner.

Winning team keeps the Battle of AB trophy.

In case of a 12-12 tie, defending champions North keep the trophy.

Round times: Round 1: 11:30 am. Round 2: 3:30 pm. Half an hour break is guaranteed.

History: The Battle of AB was first introduced in 1996. The score since that time is 9-8 in favour of team North. Team North won the last two competitions.

Lethbridge Active

Date: Sep 7, 2013

Location: Pemmican Lodge, 102 - 5th Avenue South
5 round Swiss System tournament; CFC rated

Entry fee: \$5 (cash, on-site only)

Organizer: Peter Davis-Imhof

peter.davisimhof@gmail.com 403-795-1211

<http://albertachess.org/2013LabourDayChessQuickster.pdf>



30th Trumpeter Classic

By: Vlad Rekhson

Trumpeter Classic has been a staple event of the Alberta Chess Association schedule for 30 years. For the anniversary year, Wade Caughlin Financials and the Alberta Chess Association helped boost the prize fund by \$1000. The prize fund was further increased by entry fees which made out the Class prizes for the total prize fund of \$1750! The event attracted a crowd of 22 players from all over Alberta, and even one person came from BC. The competition took place at the Sandman Hotel on June 1-2, 2013. As someone who visited the tournament when it was held in January, the change was certainly nice as I got to see some green spaces in the "Trumpeter city." One nice addition to the event which started in recent years is a blitz tournament which took place on the night before the event. The Blitz included 10 participants and had a prize fund of \$200 which included \$100 in entry fees and a \$100 sponsorship by Caughlin financials. We even had a celebrity Tournament Director as John Quiring helped by creating a crosstable for the event. I won the Blitz Championship with 8/9 ahead of: Rob Gardner and Tim Pradzinski who finished with 6.5/9 each. As for the results of the main event, I won first with 4.5/5 ahead of Peter Kalisvaart from Edmonton who finished with 4/5. Third was shared by the "Rocket" Rob Gardner from Edmonton and the surprising local hero-Tim Pradzinski. Tim was also the Tournament Director, which makes his accomplishment even more impressive. Tim and 'Rocket' were joined by: Ali Razzaq who also tied for third with 3.5/5; however, Ali was eligible for the

best under 1900 prize. Second best in the under 1900 section went to Archie Robertson from Fairview who finished with: 3/5, while third in the same division went to Phil Holmstrom from Edmonton and Chris White from La-Crete (2.5/5). Best under 1700 went to: Joel Stainer from Dawson Creek, BC and Piotr Pisanski from Grande-Prairie with 2.5/5 each. In addition to the main prizes, the organizers added some door prizes which were won by everyone who attended. Those included some nice chess books, as well as, various treats! A special thanks goes to Wade Caughlin and Wade Caughlin financials, for sponsoring and organizing the event and to Tim Pradzinski for directing the tournament.



Trumpeter Classic trophy (with 30 names of winners)

Miller, David (2133) - Rekhson, Vlad (2135) [C99]

30th Trumpeter Classic (5), (Annotated by: Rekhson, V)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.h3 d6 9.c3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4 Qc7 13.Nbd2 Bb7 14.Nf1 Rac8 15.Bb1 Rfe8 16.d5 Nc4 17.b3 Nb6 18.Ne3N Hellers-Smyslov 1989 continued: [18.Bd2 Nh5 19.Ne3 g6 20.g3 Nd7 21.Bc2 Bf8 22.a4 Ra8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Qe2 Qb6 25.b4±] 18...Qc3 19.Qe2 Nh5?! I quickly dismissed Qxa1 as my queen gets trapped, but after: [19...Qxa1 20.Bb2 Qxb1! 21.Rxb1 Nxe4 Black has enough

material for the queen and a strong pressure in the centre.] 20.g3 g6 21.Bb2 Qc7 22.Ng4 Qd7 23.Qe3 f5 a more solid option would be: 23. ... Bd8 but I felt like the position asked for a more aggressive approach even at a risk of exposing my king. 24.Nh6+ Kg7 25.Nxf5+? The losing move. The position was fairly even dynamically. One possible continuation was: [25.Qxb6 fxe4 26.Nxe5 dxe5 27.Ng4 Bc5 28.Nxe5 Qxd5 29.Bxe4 Qxe4 30.Rxe4 Bxb6 31.Nc4+ Kf7 32.Nd6+ Kf8 33.Rxe8+ Rxe8 34.Nxe8 Kxe8=] 25...gxf5 26.Qxb6



f4! Now black must choose between his queen and king safety. 27.Nh4 [27.g4 Might have been the best practical try. For example: 27...Bd8 28.Qa7 Nf6 29.Kh2 Ra8 30.Nxe5 dxe5 31.Qc5-+] 27...Bxh4 White was hoping for: [27...Bd8?? 28.Qxd6 Qxd6 29.Nf5+-] 28.gxh4 Qxh3 29.f3 Rg8 0-1

TOP TEN moments when you should sense danger in chess:

- There has been a change in the pawn structure; your opponent has 8 and you don't have any.
- Your opponent begins to throw pawns at your eyes.
- You are winning but your opponent has a gun.
- The Director tells you not to bother turning in your score sheet after the game.
 - Before the game begins you notice your opponent's first initials are GM.
- After completing your development you sense your opponent is playing the endgame.
 - Just as you make your opening move, your opponent announces mate in 11.
 - You don't control any squares at all.
- Your draw offer sends all the people watching your game into uncontrollable laughter.
 - Your opponent has three bishops.



8th Edmonton International

By: *Vlad Rekhson*

The 8th edition of the Edmonton International was the strongest one to date. For the first time two super Grandmasters took part in the competition and the average rating was 2439 which made the GM norm requirement 6.5/9 (it was 7/9 at best before). A total of 10 players participated in this tournament which was held in a Round-Robin format between June 23 and July 1st. For the first time this event was held in a one game per day format which allowed for a very relaxed playing schedule. The headliners this year were: Grandmasters Nigel Short from England and Lazaro Bruzon from Cuba. Nigel was the first ever returning champion as it almost seemed like in previous years there was some sort of a 'winners curse', as something always prevented them from coming back. This year; however, organizer Micah Hughey made Nigel's task tougher, as Lazaro Bruzon was going to be a major obstacle to Nigel repeating as the champion. The major challenge to Nigel and Lazaro was going to come from Grandmasters Eric Hansen and Victor Mikhalevski. Eric is currently the highest rated player in Canada and despite not having much success against 2600+ opposition as of yet, no one doubts that it will come sooner rather than later. Victor Mikhalevski from Israel has played in Alberta so much in recent years that some already began thinking of him as a local player. Victor is very unpredictable. In last year's event he managed to defeat Nigel Short but then fell victim to the tournament's lowest rated player-FM

Dale Haessel.

The GM norm at this year's event was going to be fought for by the Edmonton Champion IM Edward Porper, Canadian Junior Champion and Edmonton Championship runner-up IM Richard Wang and IM Rodney Perez Garcia from Cuba. The IM title hopefuls were: FM Maxim Doroshenko from Vancouver, FM Dale Haessel from Calgary and last year's IM norm recipient NM Rob Gardner from Edmonton.

Before the competition started we were treated to some world class chess events, as on Saturday, June 22nd GM Nigel Short gave a lecture. Nigel went over his recent win over GM Loek Van Wely in front of over 40 people in attendance.



GM Nigel Short lecture

Following this event, GM Lazaro Bruzon gave a 21 player simul and scored an impressive 21-0! Players rated over 2000+ were not allowed to participate; however, several 18-1900s were playing. Junior, Lenard Grossmann was the last one to finish and he got a chance to play an endgame against a super Grandmaster!

The main event got under way on Sunday

evening, June 23rd. We did get a scare on Sunday afternoon as it turned out that due to the Calgary flood, the bus which FM Haessel was supposed to catch did not leave from downtown Calgary as expected and the next bus would get him to Edmonton too late. Luckily, the head organizer of the Calgary International, Jim Daniluk agreed to drive Dale all the way to Edmonton which assured that the tournament would start with all the players in attendance! The players were ready to fight right from the start as the first several rounds produced plenty of drama and upsets. The first of such upsets occurred in round 2, as FM Doroshenko took full advantage of a blunder made by GM Hansen in a Knight endgame which allowed him to turn an endgame which was probably objectively lost into a win. The second round was also the time for the big match-up between GMs Short and Bruzon. Those who thought that the two will have a calm draw would be quite mistaken. Nigel made an early miscalculation and Lazaro took full advantage of the opportunity as he quickly won the game. Nigel was not able to recover in round 3 as he was unable to avenge his loss against GM Mikhalevski from last year as Victor repeated his achievement. Nigel was clearly suffering the effects of jet-lag, as he was playing way below his level in the first few rounds. In round four FM Doroshenko was able to take advantage of another blunder by a GM. This one was actually a blunder not made on the board. In an objectively drawish looking endgame, Maxim offered a draw to GM Mikhalevski. Victor had a couple of minutes on his clock with added 30 minutes to come only a few moves later. He wasn't too worried about the time and said that he will think about it. Thinking was the problem as he was so submerged in the intricacies of the position that he completely forgot about the time and flagged! This meant a very unfortunate loss, as all he needed to do to avoid it is say 'yes' even with one second left. In round 4, IM Richard Wang was able to draw against GM Nigel Short which undoubtedly gave Richard one of the most impressive results of his career so far. After this round the Cubans occupied the top two positions in the standings. The clear leader was GM Lazaro Bruzon with 10/12 (a 3 point system was being used, where 3 points were given for a win and 1 for a draw). Second was held by IM Rodney Perez Garcia with 8/12. The third place was shared by GM Eric Hansen and IM Richard Wang with

7/12.

By round 5 it seemed like GM Short was finally getting out of the jet-lag. It was too late for him to catch up to Lazaro but second place was certainly within his reach. He started his come-back with a win against FM Doroshenko. In the same round we were almost treated to a major upset as NM Gardner was up two pawns against GM Mikhalevski. Rob "The Rocket" is known to be unpredictable and he usually gets at least one big upset in the Internationals. This time he wasn't able to finish it off but a draw against a GM is a good result in any case. GM Bruzon had solidified his lead with an impressive win over GM Hansen. In an early endgame that looked very equal to the naked eye, Lazaro found small advantages to work off and Eric was not able to play perfectly to avoid a defeat.

In round 6 Lazaro continued his victory march on the competition, this time defeating IM Porper, while none of his major contenders were able to win as Albertans Hansen and Wang drew and IM Rodney Perez Garcia lost to the resurgent Nigel. In round 7 Lazaro Bruzon closed the first place question as he defeated GM Victor Mikhalevski. Victor played his favourite Open Ruy-Lopez (an opening which he recently wrote a nice book about) but Lazaro still managed to outplay him and win the game. By round 8, the fight for second and third was in full swing. GM Nigel Short continued his come-back and defeated GM Eric Hansen. Eric sacrificed a pawn and seemed to have full compensation but then a blunder left him a piece down. Going into the final round, GM Bruzon has already guaranteed first with an impressive 22/24! Second was also guaranteed, as GM Short had 16/24. Third place was still going to be fought over as GM Hansen and IM Wang each had 11/24, while GM Mikhalevski, IM Porper and IM Perez Garcia all had 10/24. Eric returned to his traditional wins over Edward after he was able to defuse a speculative King-side attack. IM Richard Wang outplayed FM Maxim Doroshenko and secured a share of third with that win. Despite the fact that Eric and Richard shared third with 14/27 each, Richard's traditional score of 5.5/9 was actually higher than Eric's 5/9 but because Eric had four wins and three losses his score was actually equal in the three point system to Richard's three wins and one loss. The other pursuers would have no chance to catch up

to third anyway, but they didn't even get that close as GM Mikhalevski drew IM Perez Garcia and IM Porper lost to GM Hansen. So that's it, the last two games remaining were between the leaders and the outsiders. GM Bruzon was taking on NM Gardner and GM Short was playing FM Haessel. No one really doubted the results of those two games, well no one besides the players that is. First we got a word of an upset as "The Rocket" held off the Cuban monster to a draw with the black pieces. As we were congratulating Rob on this remarkable achievement we realized that Nigel's game was not so simple as well. After the topsy-turvy game Dale managed to repeat Rob's achievement and took home a very respectable draw.

So that was the exciting end of the 8th Edmonton International. I would like to thank all those who made this fantastic festival happen. Head Organizer Micah Hughey did a great job raising funds and finding some great chess players who also happened to be great people to have around. FA Ali Razzaq directed the tournament virtually without any incidents. Club President Terry Seehagen was the treasurer of the event and helped with many more activities. Many other people helped with small but important tasks as well. This event was not possible without the contribution of the following sponsors: The Edmonton Chess Club, the Alberta Chess Association, DUB Architects, 1498413 Alberta Incorporated Dale Haessel, President. "The first and last name in Software Development." Dawn and Peter Rock-Lacroix, Sardul Purewal, George Sponga, Manuel Borja, Joskin Cleto, Rory Sillador, Ali Razzaq, Armine Arzumanyan, Klondike Insurance and many more contributors.

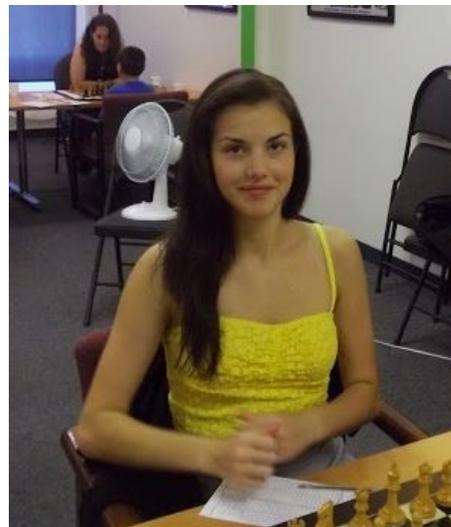
8th Edmonton International Side events

The 8th Edmonton International would not have been the same without events that accompanied the main tournament. The 8th Edmonton International B section was a six player Round-Robin which I organized and participated in. The tournament took place during the first five days of the main event and was held exactly with the same rules. The competition could truly be considered International as the 6 participants represented 4 different federations. The participants were: FM Blagoj Gicev (2380, Macedonia), NM Jeff Reeve (2315, Canada), FM Christoph Zill (2211, Germany),

NM Peter Kalisvaart (2198, Netherlands), NM Vlad Rekhson (2187, Canada) and WCM Alexandra Botez (2065, Canada). For me this was pretty much the first time in over 20 years of playing chess that I played in a one game per day tournament (other than one game per week events). The difference was quite significant. While I did not do as much preparation as I could have, the overall relaxed schedule where you don't have to run and grab lunch to not be late for the next game was quite substantial. Germany's Christoph Zill took the first place with 11/15 (4/5 in the traditional score). I was able to finish second in what was one of the best results I ever had. My final score was 10/15. The overall experience has been quite positive and hopefully this can be repeated again in the next year's International; perhaps with more sections!

Reserves

The Reserves event took place from June 29-July 1st. This year attendance was limited to 20 players in order to maintain comfortable playing conditions at the Edmonton Chess Club for everyone involved. Unfortunately, that meant that quite a few players were not able to participate in the event as the Reserves was sold out more than two weeks before the start of the event! The rating favourite before the start was FM Christoph Zill from Germany who proved his skill at the B section which ended only a couple of days later. Unfortunately, Christoph did not have the same success in the Reserves section as he finished it in second place. First went to WCM Alexandra Botez. After a not very



WCM Alexandra Botez winner of 8th Edmonton International Reserves

successful tournament at the International B section, Alexandra was unstoppable at the reserves as she went through the field with a perfect score (15/15). Third was shared by BC junior John Doknjas and Arnold McKay with 10/15 each.

Blitz

The International Blitz competition was held on Saturday, June 29th. The format was a nine round Swiss. Unfortunately the Cuban players were the only ones of the International field to take part in Blitz. They left no chance for anyone else as GM Lazaro Bruzon and IM Rodney Perez Garcia shared first with 8.5/9 (only a quick draw against each other). Third place was shared by Vlad Rekhson and Aaron Sequillion with 6/9. A visitor from New-York; Robert Oberlander finished first in the u-1800 category as he scored 5.5/9

(2666) Short, Nigel (2682) - Hansen, Eric (2577) [C77] (Annotated by: Short, N)



It is an established scientific fact that no healthy player ever lost a game of chess. This year, the Edmonton International was, for me a disastrous event chiefly on account of jet-lag. The nine-hour time difference, between Alberta and my home in Athens, meant that the games began at 3am, according my body clock, and continued throughout the night. Compounding this severe problem was the fact that I was struggling to sleep anyway - rarely managing more than 3-4 hours of slumber. In short, I played over half the tournament in a zombieified state. It was not until round six that I recovered physically, but by then the major damage had been done. I will let the reader decide whether this is just a pathetic excuse from someone who had a disappointing event. All I can say is that last year I prefaced the tournament with a few days in Toronto and this seemed to help a lot. In 2013 I had no such chance

because I came more or less straight from Tanzania. Unfortunately I played no games in Edmonton that scream out for publication, so here is one against my highest rated victim, with whom I crossed swords again in Ottawa a few days later. Eric Hansen and I shared first place in the Canadian Open, with me pipping him on tie-break.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6

This choice came as a small surprise for me but, of late, Eric seems to have been adding classical defences to his diverse repertoire.

3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3

Somewhat uncommon these days, but it was a very popular choice among top players, like Tarrasch, in the 19th century. It is basically a Four Knights where Black does not have the possibility of playing the equalising Rubinstein Variation, Nd4. It also had the merit of forcing Eric to think.]

5...b5

He does have this additional possibility though.

6.Bb3 Bc5 7.d3 d6 8.a4?! [Inaccurate.]

After 8.Nd5!? intending 9.Bg5, or 9.c3 and 10.d4 White can count on an edge. Obviously there is nothing earth-shattering about this plan, but it is enough to be satisfied with.

8...Bg4!



A dynamic pawn sacrifice, giving Black ample compensation.

9.axb5 axb5 10.Rxa8 Qxa8 11.Nxb5 There seemed nothing better to do than accept the proffered pawn.

11...Qa5+ 12.Nc3 Nd4

It is clear that Black has a rich initiative for his modest material investment.

13.Bd2? Bb4?!

Missing 13...Qa7! awkwardly hitting f2, which gives Black the advantage e.g.

14.0-0 Nxf3+ 15.gxf3 Bh3

14.h3

It was a tad annoying to lose a tempo thus, but the pin cannot be tolerated forever.

14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 0-0 16.Kf1

Getting the king out of checking range of the d4 knight.

16...Nh5

Sensibly trying to blockade the front f-pawn.

17.Rg1 Kh8

There was an argument for 17...Ra8!? intending Qa1.

18.Bc4

Another time-consuming choice, but White is intending slowly to unravel.

18...c6 19.f4!?

Part of a two-stage plan. I didn't want a Black knight descending upon f4 when I couldn't take it.

19...exf4?!

With the sudden change in the position, Eric loses his bearings. Black is doing very well if he fully enters into the tactical skirmish

19...Nxf4! 20.Bxf4 exf4 21.Na2 d5 22.Nxb4 dxc4 23.c3 f3! with a favourable position.

20.Nb1!

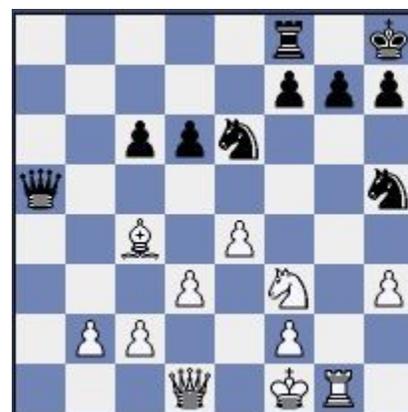
I suspect Eric missed this one. The bishop exchange relieves the pressure and the central black knight will soon be driven back. Still, there is no undue cause for alarm.

20...Bxd2 21.Nxd2 f3?!

This is the beginning of total brain-damage. Eric was by no means in real time-trouble, but he had consumed quite a lot of time on his previous moves, due to the unfamiliarity of the position. Now, with the position changing character, he wanted to retain the initiative, even at the cost of pawn, like he had done earlier. This was wishful thinking and contained one giant tactical flaw.

Instead the more modest 21...Nf6 22.c3 Ne6 was absolutely fine.

22.Nxf3 Ne6??



Even here 22...Nxf3 23.Qxf3 g6 24.Kg2 Qe5 gave adequate compensation.

23.Bxe6

Oops. This anti-positional move wins on the spot.

23...Nf4

Rather too late he spotted 23...fxe6 24.Rg5 garners a piece. The rest requires no comment.

24.Bb3 Qh5 25.Ke1 Ra8 26.Rg4 Qxh3 27.Ng5

In many ways this was a pretty awful game, but in fact most encounters are decided but some sort of miscalculation. For strong players, like Eric, errors do not usually come out of a vacuum and this was no exception. Slightly unfamiliar structures led to the consumption of plenty of time. As I started to struggle successfully to rid myself of his strong bind, he failed to come to terms with the changing circumstances and found a "solution" to maintaining his initiative, that simply wasn't there. The game ended abruptly with a horrible blunder, which he spotted the moment he played it, but it was the psychology that led to this error, which is instructive.

1-0

Perez Garcia, Rodney (2364) - Hansen, Eric (2577) [A09]

Edmonton - Canada Edmonton - [Annotated by: Hansen, E]

My best game from the tournament. A dynamic middlegame occurs and it comes down to who has the better placed pieces.

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4

White plays similarly to a Benko, except without the pawn sacrifice.

3...g6

I prepared to play this against Bruzon. Not too surprising that his roommate went for it. I didn't have any special ideas but I judged this to be an interesting and playable position for Black. I wanted to avoid a theoretical position and play somechess!

4.Bb2 Bg7 5.g3 a5

[5...e5 6.d3 Ne7 7.Bg2 0-0! 8.Nbd2 a5 9.a3 Ra7 10.0-0! b6 11.Qb3 a4 12.Qc2 c5 13.Rfe1 Nf5 14.b5 Re8 15.Rad1 Bb7 16.e3(unclear) 1-0 Iturrizaga Bonelli,E (2607)-Felgaer,R (2591) Mexico City 2010]

6.b5 Nh6 7.Bg2

White has activity on both flanks while boasting a solid pawn structure. Compensation for allowing Black space in the center.

7...0-0 8.d3 c5

I wanted White to clarify the pawn structure. Somehow, though, I didn't think he would en passant here.

9.bxc6

Correct. Now White is really playing a good Benko. He will have the B-file to maneuver for free! [9.0-0 What I expected. 9...Ra7 10.Nbd2 b6 11.Qc2 Nf5 12.Rae1 With a balanced position.]

9...Nxc6

[9...bxc6 10.Nbd2 Na6 11.Nb3 Nf5 12.0-0 a4 13.Nbd2 Nc5 14.Ba3± Black seems a bit loose here- no targets and mainly holes in his position. Strong tactical defence will be required here.]

10.Na3 b6

A strong move. Black has to challenge the bishop on g2 otherwise he is just fishing around. I can't gain space or squares without dealing with that long diagonal at some point.

11.0-0

[11.Ne5?! Bxe5 12.Bxc6 Bh3 (unclear) 13.Bxa8 Qxa8; 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxa8 Bg4 with compensation] **11...Rb8 12.Nb5 Nf5**

Before figuring out a plan you might as well develop your pieces to the best square. Something often forgotten!

13.Rb1

White is playing all normal moves so far. Now he will put the Bishop on a3 and try to break open the queenside at an opportune time. A strategical battle.

13...Qd7!

I have a fondness for playing this move before developing my bishop. It allows for some flexibility; maybe I will play Ba6 in some lines. And If I do put my bishop on b7 then my Queen coordinates with it better.

14.a4 Bb7 15.Ba3 h5!

I'm happy with this move. It gives White something to think about. The point to realize in this position is that the pawn on e7 is critical. As long as it stays there then White is lacking space to pressure my b6 weakness. Where does he move his knight? I play a useful move in the meantime. [15...Rfc8 16.Nd2 Ne5 17.Ne4 Bc6 18.Qb3 (unclear) h5 19.c5 h4 20.cxb6 Rxb6 21.Rfc1(unclear) Loose for Black]

16.Nd2 Ne5

Visually it seems as if Black is improving his position faster than White.

17.Ne4

[17.Bxb7 Qxb7 With h4 looming 18.Ne4? Nxc4±]

17...h4

Consistent. White has no weaknesses

therefore I have to try to make one. I have a lot more pieces on the kingside so it felt natural to focus there.

18.c5

Who's faster?

18...Bc6

Moving out of the way of Nc5 tactics.

19.cxb6 Rxb6 20.Qd2

[20.Nc5 Qd8 21.Bxc6 Rxc6 22.Ne4 (22.Nb7 Qa8±) 22...Qd5 23.Qd2 Ra8=]

20...Ra8

I don't have enough firepower to justify giving up a pawn. I saw that my attack was coming regardless

21.Bc5 Rbb8 22.Rb2

White has not noticed the danger surrounding his king. He proceeds to pile up on the b and c files. However, I think it's apparent that Black is fine in this position due to his well-placed pieces.

22...Bh6

Activating another piece with tempo.

23.Qc2

[23.f4? hgx3 24.hgx3 Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Nxc3 26.Bxa8 Nxf1 27.Kxf1 Rxa8-+]

23...hgx3 24.hgx3



24...Ne3!!

The most opportune time to throw a wrench in White's plans. The process of finding this move was not the most difficult. I had a pretty clear head: look for attacking possibilities or face White in an evenly contested queenside struggle.

25.fxe3

[25.Qc1 Bxe4 26.Bxe4 (26.dxe4 Rc8! And White has no good moves) 26...Qh3 27.fxe3 Ng4-+]

25...Bxe3+ 26.Nf2

[26.Rf2 Bxe4 27.Bxe4 (27.dxe4 Ng4 28.Bxd4 Bxd4 29.Nxd4 Qd6 (29...Qxd4 30.e3 Qxe3-+)) 27...Qh3-+ White is helpless due to the e3 bishop blocking all coordination 28.Bxd4 Qxg3+ 29.Bg2 Qxf2+ 30.Kh2 Qh4+ 31.Bh3 Ng4+ 32.Kg2 Qf2+ 33.Kh1 Qg1#; 26.Kh2 Ng4+

27.Kh1 Kg7 28.Bh3 Nf2+ 29.Rxf2 Qxh3+ 30.Kg1 Rh8; 26.Nf2 Qg4 27.Bxd4 a) 27.Nxd4 Qxg3 28.Nxc6 Ng4 29.Nxe7+ Kh7 30.Bxe3 (30.Rd1 Qxf2+ 31.Kh1 Qh4+ 32.Bh3 Qxh3#) 30...Qh2#; b) 27.Kh2 Qh5+ 28.Bh3 (28.Nh3 Ng4+ 29.Kh1 Qxh3#) 28...Bxf2 29.Rxf2 Ng4+ 30.Kg1 Qxh3+; 27...Qxg3 28.Qxc6 Ng4 29.Qc7 e5!-+]
26...Qg4 0-1

Mikhalevski, Victor (2551) - Short, Nigel D (2682) [A10]

Edmonton International Edmonton (3),
[Annotated by: Mikhalevski, V]

1.c4

Probably this move hasn't come as a surprise for Nigel as I played it against him last year in Edmonton.

1...b6

Even though Short played 1...e5 in the aforementioned game I could expect this move as it's part of Short's repertoire.

2.Nc3 Bb7 3.e4 e5

An interesting, but a relatively rare continuation. Nevertheless it was expected as my opponent played like this at least three times, including last year's game against Pechenkin in Edmonton.

4.d3

In my preparation for the game I approached the move order in this position slightly careless. I knew I'm going to play Nf3, d3, g3 and Bg2, but there are some subtleties, which I've overlooked. [Probably the more popular 4.Nf3 is a more precise move order as it forces 4...Nc6 See in the English database.]

4...Bc5

Black played this move rather quick and I realized that now in case of 5.Nf3 Black isn't forced to play 5...Nc6, but can play 5...d6 instead, saving a tempo.

5.g3N

A novelty, but the position is already very rare.

5...f5?!

Nigel is faithful to his style, although this time King's gambit with reversed colors turns out to be risky.

6.Bg2 Nf6 7.Nf3!

This logical move turns out to be rather unpleasant for Black as both the e5 and f5-pawns are hanging, while the capture on e4 is in White's favor.

7...0-0

[7...fxe4 8.Nxe5 (8.Ng5!/? makes sense too.) 8...Qe7 9.d4 Bxd4!? 10.Qxd4 c5 11.Qd1 Qxe5 Black has won a pawn, but

White's initiative after 12.0-0 0-0 13.Re1 with initiative is rather strong.]

8...0-0

A similar idea. Two pawns are hanging again. [The immediate 8.exf5 could have transposed to the game after 8...d6 9.0-0 Qc8]

8...d6

Black protects the e5-pawn and prepare to win back the f5-pawn by means of Qc8. [In case of 8...fxe4 9.Nxe5 d6 10.Ng4² Black experiences problems with the e4-pawn.]

9.exf5!

Simple and strong. [In according to Houdini White had a spectacular idea 9.Ng5!? Qd7 10.Nd5 Na6 11.Ne6!! and the knight is untouchable. 11...Rf7 (11...Qxe6? 12.exf5 Qd7 (Obviously not 12...Qc8?? 13.Ne7+) 13.Nxf6+ Rxf6 14.Bxb7+- and White wins.) 12.exf5 Nxd5 13.cxd5±]

9...Qc8!

Black is hoping to win the f5-pawn back, but it turns out to be a difficult task. [9...Qd7?? fails to 10.Nxe5!+-] **10.a3!** Preparing 11.b4.

10...a5

[10...Nc6 11.Nh4 Ne7 12.Ne4!± White keeps an extra pawn as Black can't capture on f5 due to some simple tactics Nxf6 with the following Bxb7. 12...Nxf5 13.Nxf5 Qxf5 14.Nxf6+-; After 10...Qxf5? 11.b4 is highly unpleasant as 11...Bd4? drops a piece to 12.Nxd4+- with the following 13.Bxb7.]

11.Nb5!

Attacking the c7-pawn I'm still preventing 11...Qxf5.

11...Na6

[11...c6, the move I was provoking as it weakens Black's pawn structure. 12.Nc3 Qxf5 At least Black wins back a pawn, although after 13.d4 exd4 14.Nxd4± White's advantage is out of question.]

12.d4!



This exchange in the centre allows White to keep his extra pawn.

12...exd4 13.Nbxd4 Bxd4 14.Nxd4± White has clearly won the opening battle.

14...Nc5 15.b3

[It would have been more accurate to start with 15.Re1! ignoring Black's positional idea of 15...a4 This way Black fixes the queenside. 16.Bg5± However White's extra pawn yields him a clear advantage.]

15...Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Qb7+ 17.Qf3?!

A dubious move, which gives Black counter chances. [17.f3!± covering the e4-square deserved attention, although during the game I was a little worried to weaken the e3-square with some ideas like Ng4.; 17.Kg1!± was possible too.]

17...Qxf3+ 18.Kxf3 Nfd7!±

Black is threatening with both 19...a4 with the following Ne5+ and Nxc4 and 19...g6 trying to win back the f5-pawn. **19.g4**

I put my money on the kingside majority. [Perhaps it was better to retaining the queenside pawn structure intact by means of 19.a4!± g6 20.Kg2 gxf5 21.Bh6 Rf6 22.Bg5± with slightly better chances thanks to a weakness on f5 and control over the e-file after the following Re1.]

19...a4 20.b4 Ne5+ 21.Kg3 Ne4+ [21...Nb3! 22.Nxb3 axb3 23.Rb1 b2! dis-coordinating White's forces on the queenside. 24.Bxb2 Nxc4 and Black seems to equalize.]

22.Kg2

[I considered 22.Kf4!? Nf6 23.g5 but couldn't decide if it's good or not. 23...Nfd7 (23...Nh5+ 24.Ke4 Rae8 (or 24...Nxc4 25.Kd5!±) 25.Kd5 Nd3 26.Kc6± Activity of the White's king provides him with better chances.) 24.Ne6 Rfc8!± and it's not easy for White to make progress after Black picks-up the c4-pawn.(24...Rf7 25.Nxc7 Rxf8 26.Ne6 Rxf5+ 27.Ke4 R8f7 28.f4 Nxc4 29.Rd1± is better for White.)]

22...Nxc4

[22...Nxc4?? is impossible. 23.f3+-]

23.b5

Fixing Black's queenside structure, but giving away the c5-square. [23.Ra2!? c5 24.bxc5 dxc5 25.Ne6 Rfc8 26.Re1 Nf6 with unclear position]

23...Nc5 24.Ra2!

The rook lift. The latter enters the game from c2.

24...Rae8 25.Rc2 Ne5

[25...d5!± was possible. Probably Nigel didn't like the fact that I can attack the c7-pawn by means of Bf4, but I have no time for it due to Re4 idea. 26.Rd1 Re4! 27.f3 Ne3+ 28.Bxe3 Rxe3 29.Ne6! Nxe6

30.fxe6 Rxe6= and the rook endgame should be equal.]

26.f3 (Time pressure)

[26.h3!? deserved attention too, but this time I preferred to take the e4-square under control.]

26...Ned7?!?

Black returns the favor. [26...Ned3!? with the idea of Re5 was good for equality. 27.Rc3= (or 27.Bd2 Re5=)]

27.Rd1

Finally I have time to bring this rook into the game.

27...h6 28.Kf1

Being short of time I decided to bring the king closer to the e-file. [I had at my disposal a nice idea of 28.Ne2! transferring the knight to f4 from where it looks at both d5 and g6 weaknesses. 28...Kh7 29.Nf4±]

28...Rf7 29.Bf4 Kh7 30.h3!

A useful move as it gives the g4-pawn an extra protection.

30...Nf6 31.Kf2

[31.Bc1!? Nd5 32.Kf2 would have transposed to the game.]

31...Nd5 32.Bc1±

I didn't mind to come back to c1 as I'm not in a hurry, not taking in account situation with my clock. [32.Ne6!? A difficult move for the time-trouble and it might be not better than the text, 32...Nxe6 33.fxe6 Rxf4 34.Rxd5 Re7 35.Rf5 Rxf5 36.gxf5 g6 37.f6 Rxe6 38.Rxc7+ Kg8 39.Rc6± with better chances in the rook endgame.]

32...Rfe7

Black creates two positional threats 33...Re1! and 33...Ne3.



33.Ne6!

Just in time.

33...Nf6

[33...Nxe6 34.fxe6 Nf6 35.Kg3!± and exchange of the e and c-pawns is in White's favor as it weakens Black's pawn structure on the queenside.] **34.Bb2 Kg8**

[34...Nxe6 35.Bxf6 gxf6 36.fxe6± is simi-

lar to the previous line.]

35.Bxf6!?

A simple solution. I saw that my knight is coming to d5 and it was more than enough for me to exchange my strong bishop. [35.h4!?!]

35...gxf6 36.Nf4!±

Even though the computer gives White only a slight edge I consider Black's position to be very difficult as one of his rooks will be passive on f7, while the other can be exchanged.

36...Rf7 37.Nd5

The ideal square for the knight from where it attacks both the c7 and f6-pawns.

37...Kf8 38.Re2!

Exchanging the active rook.

38...Re5 39.Rd4!

Covering the e4-square White prepares 40.f4. [39.f4 Ne4+ 40.Kf3 Rxd5 41.Rxd5 Nc3 is better for White, but I didn't see a single reason to trade my strong knight.]

39...Ke8 40.f4 Rxe2+ 41.Kxe2 Kd7 42.Kf3!+-

Now White has a clear-cut plan. The king is going via g3 to h5 and Black will be unable to protect his weaknesses on the kingside. Thus, his only chance is counter-play on the queenside. Easier to say than to do.

42...Rf8 43.Kg3 c6 44.bxc6+ Kxc6 45.Kh4 Nb3 46.Nb4+

[46.Rd1+- was also possible.]

46...Kc5!

The only practical chance is to activate the king. [46...Kd7 47.Rd3+- is hopeless.]

47.Rd5+ Kc4 48.Rxd6

White won a pawn and activated the rook, while Black has plans to win the a3-pawn.

48...b5 49.Rc6+

[49.Kh5!? would be more accurate, although the text doesn't miss a win either. 49...Na5 50.Ra6! Nb7 51.Rb6 Na5 52.Kg6+- White prevented any possible counter-play and wins easily.]

49...Kd4 50.Kh5 Na5

Planning on 51...Nc4.

51.Rd6+ Kc3

The king is running to b2, which after the following Nb3 will allow Black to win the a3-pawn. A certain achievement for Black, although White's pawns on the kingside are faster.

52.Rd3+

[52.Kxh6!? Kb2 53.Kg7 Ra8 54.Rd3 Nb3 transposes to the game.]

52...Kb2 53.Kxh6 Nb3 54.Kg7 Ra8

[In my opinion the rook would be better placed on c8, although it shouldn't save Black. 54...Rc8! ?]

55.g5

Now it's a run and so I have to do it as fast as I can.

55...Kxa3 56.Nd5

[56.Nc6!?!+- was good too.]

56...fxg5

[56...Kb2 doesn't help either. 57.gxf6 a3 58.f7 a2 59.Rd1 Nc1 60.Rd2+ Kb3 61.Rxa2 Nxa2 62.f6+- and White's pawns are unstoppable.]

57.fxg5 Kb2 58.f6 a3 59.Nb4!

A simple way to deal with the a-pawn. [59.f7 a2 60.Rd1+-]

59...Nc5 60.Re3 Na6

This attempt to eliminate White's knight doesn't change anything. **61.Nxa6 Rxa6** [61...a2 can be always met by 62.Re2+ Kb1 63.Rxa2+-]

62.f7 Ra7 63.Kg8 Rxf7 64.Kxf7 b4 65.g6 a2 66.Re2+ Ka3 67.Rxa2+

White is first to promote and so Black resigned. Needless to say I was really happy to beat Short in a long positional fight and consider this game to be my best in the Edmonton International 2013. **1-0**

Doroshenko, Maxim (2336) - Bruzon, Lazaro (2687) [E10]

(Annotated by: Doroshenko, M)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5

this was the first surprise, Lazaro doesn't play Benoni very often. I expected QGD or Slav.

4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 a6 7.a4 g6 8.g3 Bg7 9.Bg2 0-0 10.0-0 Re8 11.Bf4 h6

Nh5 or Ne4 is played more often.

12.Qc1 g5 13.Bd2 Bf5 14.h4 g4 15.Ne1 h5

During the game I considered the black's setup on the King side to be quite suspicious and tried to play actively in order to refute it.

16.Bg5

For the next several moves the white is trying to use the pin on h4-d8diagonal.

16...Bg6 17.Qf4

Inaccuracy, f4 square is more suitable for the knight. Nd3->Nf4 would be a better choice. [17.Nd3 Nbd7 18.Nf4 Qe7 19.a5±]

17...Qe7 18.f3?!?

I follow my initial plan of using the pin, but this move seriously weakens the position of the white king. [18.Nd3 Nbd7 19.a5±]

18...Nbd7 19.fxg4 hxg4 20.Nd3 Rac8 21.h5?

bad mistake, h-file will be used by the-

black in the attack [21.a5 Qf8 22.Nf2 c4 23.e4±]

21...Nxh5

[21...Bxh5?! 22.Ne4 c4 23.Ndf2 Nxd5 24.Qxd6 N7f6 25.Rad1±]

22.Qxg4 Bd4+ 23.Kh2 Ne5!

Nice combination. I spent about 30 minutes trying to find winning continuation for the white, but didn't find anything better than to retreat with my queen to h4.

24.Qh4

[24.Qxc8? Qxg5 25.Qxe8+ White is up a lot of material, but the position is completely lost. 25...Kg7 26.Ne4 (26.Nxe5 Qxg3+ 27.Kh1 Qh4+ 28.Bh3 Qxh3#; 26.Qc8 Qxg3+ 27.Kh1 f5-) 26...Bxe4 27.Rxf7+ Nxf7 28.Qxe4 Qxg3+ 29.Kh1 Qg5 30.Qf3 c4 31.Nf2 Ne5-+]

24...f6 25.Nxe5 Bxe5 26.Bf4 Kg7?

mistake that helps the white to get back into the game [26...Nxf4! 27.gxf4 Kf7 28.Bh3 (28.fxe5!? Rh8 29.e6+ Kg7 30.Qh3 Rxh3+ 31.Bxh3 f5 32.Rf3 Rh8 33.Rg1 Qf6 34.e3 Kf8 35.Rgg3?) 28...Rh8 29.Qg4 Bxc3 30.bxc3 f5 31.Qg3 Bh5-+]

27.Bxe5 Qxe5 28.Bh3 Rh8 29.Kg2 Rce8 30.Be6 Rh6 31.Rh1 Reh8 32.Qg4 f5 33.Qg5 Nf6 34.Rxh6 Rxh6 35.e4?



blunder in time trouble that loses the game on the spot. [35.a5 Rh5 36.Qf4 Qxf4 37.gxf4 Rh8 38.Ra3 Rb8 39.Rb3±]

35...Rh5!-+

[35...fxe4? 36.Qxe5 dxe5 37.d6 Rh8 38.Kf2 Rd8 39.Rd1 Bf7 40.Bf5 Bg6 41.Be6=]

36.Qf4 fxe4 37.Qxe5 Rxe5 38.Re1 b6 39.a5 bxa5 40.Ra1 e3 41.Kf3 Bd3 42.g4 e2 43.Re1 Ne4 44.Bf5 Nd2+ 45.Kf2 Bxf5 46.gxf5 Ne4+ 0-1

Trophy Presentation to GM Lazaro Bruzon



Willis, Purewal win the 2013 AB Senior's Championship

By: Vlad Rekhson



Bradley J. Willis



Sardul Purewal

The Inaugural AB Seniors Championship took place in the Edmonton Chess Club, on April 27-28, 2013.

The event was open to players aged 60 and over. With the winner receiving a trip to the Canadian Seniors Championship, held in Kitchener, ON in August. A total of six players took place in the event, but unfortunately no one made the trip from outside Edmonton.

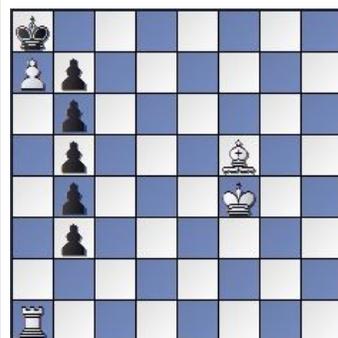
As it was, rating favourites Bradley J. Willis and Sardul Purewal shared the first place with Mr. Willis receiving the trip to Kitchener. Willis and Purewal drew each other and defeated the rest of the field. Third place was taken by George Sponga with 2/4.

Next year's event will be held in Calgary, although the format may change as it looks like FIDE will be holding two Seniors events in the 50+ and 65+ divisions. If that happens we may divide our events into two as well.

2013 AB Seniors Championship

#	Player	Rtg.	Total
1	Willis, Bradley J.	2100	3.5
2	Purewal, Sardul	1939	3.5
3	Sponga, George	1537	2
4	Davies, Robert	1607	1.5
5	Mihulescu, Andu	1383	1
6	Purewal, Pal	1705	0.5

Chess Problem



White to play. Mate in 6
Solution On page 33

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As of Aug 1, 2013

1	GM Eric Hansen	2634
2	IM Porper, Edward	2496
3	IM Wang, Richard	2492
4	FM Pechenkin, Vladimir	2394
5	NM Yam, Alex	2353
6	NM Zhang, David	2315
7	NM Reeve, Jeff	2313
8	NM Valencia, Belsar	2306
9	NM Kazmaier, Daniel	2298
10	NM Gardner, Robert J.	2292
11	FM Haessel, Dale	2292
12	NM Haynes, Nicolas	2282
13	NM Peter, Steven	2263
14	NM Neven, Knut	2258
15	NM Rekhson, Vladislav	2242
16	Kostadinov, Georgi	2219
17	NM Robichaud, Martin	2204
18	Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz	2201
19	NM Booker, Brad	2192
20	Tam, Erik	2185
21	NM Gluckie, Jamin	2177
22	Perron, Sean	2163
23	NM Hughey, Micah	2148
24	Miller, David	2133
25	Nguyen, Kim	2133
26	Sequillion, Aaron	2117
27	NM Kalisvaart, Peter	2106
28	Willis, Bradley J.	2097
29	Abdelrhman, Hamid	2094
30	Yearwood, Roy	2094
31	Beaudry, Lukas	2075
32	Kazakevich, Anastasia	2074
33	Shi, Diwen	2071
34	Ottosen, David	2067
35	Pua, Richard	2058
36	Daniluk, Jim	2054
37	Gold, Itohan	2044
38	Eshleman, Brandon	2043
39	Zeggelaar, Mike	1975
40	NM Purewal, Sardul	1953

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

As of August 1, 2013

1	GM Hansen, Eric	2584
2	IM Porper, Edward	2454
3	IM Wang, Richard	2419
4	FM Pechenkin, Vladimir	2335
5	NM Yam, Alex	2279
6	NM Reeve, Jeff	2245
7	NM Leuchanka, Siarhei	2221
8	NM Valencia, Belsar	2214
9	FM Dale Haessel	2200
10	NM Kazmaier, Daniel	2196



First AB Schools Championship

By: Vlad Rekhson

J Calgary hosted the first ever Alberta Schools Chess Championship on Saturday, June 8th. The tournament consisted of three sections: Div I (Gr. 1-3), II (4-6) and III (7-9). Div. IV will take place in October in Calgary.

The format was borrowed from a very successful American scholastic scene, where players compete individually in their Divisions, but the top four individual scores from a school are accumulated for a team score. This way, both individual and team results are important.

The tournament itself was quite successful considering that it was the first such event in Alberta. A total of 54 participants took part coming from Calgary and region (33), Edmonton (19), Red-Deer and Lethbridge (one player each). A total of 13 girls were among the players.

Div. I had a total of 16 participants and it was very tightly contested on the individual level. In the end Quirck Migrino from Calgary (Holy Cross school) emerged as the champion ahead of Kenneth Mah from Edmonton (Stratford) due to head to head victory (4/5 each). Third place went to Julian Lau from Edmonton (Grandview Heights) who edged out Khino Tolentino (St. Jerome) from Calgary due to head to head victory (3.5/5 each).

On the team level, this division was not close at all, as Stratford Elementary from Edmonton won it easily.

Division II was the largest and the most challenging. A total of 27 players took part and in the end, the Tolentino brothers took the first two spots. Patrick won all of

his games on the way to first, while Andre took second with 4.5/5 (both from St. Jerome). A total of six players tied for third with 4/5 meaning that a special tie-break round-robin was required. In the end, Sydney Mah edged out Dennis Robitu (both from Stratford Elementary in Edmonton) as she won the head to head game between the two (4/5 in tie-break). This meant that the best girl prize went to Shaira Munoz from St. Jerome in Calgary. Best Unrated/U-800 went to Jazer Buan (Erin Wood) from Calgary. This division also had the closest contested team competition as St. Jerome from Calgary edged out Stratford from Edmonton to take the first place. Division III had 11 participants and first place went to Sisan Escoegene Fregene Elmer S. Gish in St. Albert. Sisan was perfect! Second was taken by Josh Oba from GS Lakie in Lethbridge with 4/5. Third place had to be figured out in a complicated tie-break system. Rahul Bhatnagar from Elmer S. Gish in St. Albert emerged as the 3rd place finisher since he defeated both other competitors who finished 3.5/5 head to head. Bhumika Jejurkar from T B Riley in Calgary defeated Rachel Gagne to take the Best Girl award. Best U-800/UNR in this section was awarded to: Daniel Lund-Rachinski from Elmer S. Gish in St. Albert (2.5/5). At first it appeared that Bearspaw from Calgary could give Elmer S. Gish some competition for first, but it wasn't to be this time as Elmer S. Gish was the clear winner.

A special thanks goes to Angelo Tolentino and Paul Gagne for directing and organizing the tournament, and to all the other volunteers who helped make the

tournament happen! See you in Edmonton next year!

Final Standings are available at: <http://www.albertachess.org/2013Abschoolsprereg.html>

Calgary Schools Championship



A record 72 players attended the annual Calgary Schools Championship which was held at the Calgary Chess Club on May 4th. This year the event also served as a pre-amble to the AB Schools Championship which was going to be held a month later in Calgary. The winning teams would receive a free entry to the Provincial competition.

The event was held in a team play format where 3 players from a school faced opponents of another team. The competition included an Open Elementary, a Novice Elementary and a Jr. High/High School sections.

Due to the high attendance the organizers decided to stagger the events as the Elementary tournaments were held on Saturday morning, while the afternoon session took place in the afternoon.

In the morning the club was at pretty much full capacity as the competition involved 8 teams in the Open and 10 in the Novice Elementary sections, adding up to 54 players playing at any given time. The five round event was quite exciting but in the end St. Jerome school took first in both events. St. Jerome won all five of their matches in the Open section with the Tolentino brothers: Patrick, Andre and Khino showing their strength. Best individual performance was shown by Quirck Migrino from Erin Woods who won all of his five games on board 1 and Andre Tolentino from St. Jerome who had a perfect 5/5 on board 2!

The Novice section was extremely competitive as the Webber Academy had three teams in this competition. All of

them have competed for top spots but in the end St. Jerome won this section as well on-tie break. Best individual performance was shown by Jack Pirie (5/5) who lead the Webber I team.

The Junior High/High School division was quite a bit smaller with only 6 teams participants and only Bearspaw bringing their high school team. Last year's champion Westmount was unseated as champions, despite a perfect 5/5 by Diwen Shi on board one. The new champions were: Queen Elizabeth with Chenxi Zhao, Bryan Ma and Zeling Li. Queen Elizabeth only lost one individual game throughout the tournament as Diwen Shi defeated Chenxi Zhao.

A special thanks goes to all those who helped with the tournament including, tournament director: Paul Gagne and assistants: Angelo Tolentino and Tatiana Vaganova.

Edmonton Schools Championship



The first official Edmonton School Championship was held at the Edmonton Chess Club, on May 11th. The competition's format was the same as at the upcoming AB Schools Championship. The competition was held in four Divisions: Div 1 (Gr. K-3), Div 2 (Gr. 4-6), Div 3 (Gr. 7-9) and Div 4 (Gr. 10-12). The competition was held in an individual Swiss format but the top four players from each school counted for a school score. As this was the first such tournament in Edmonton the attendance was not great but it was not a bad start as a total of 28 participants took part in the competition. Div 1. had a total of eight participants. Julian Lau from Grandview Heights finished in first place with a perfect 5/5 and earned \$100 towards his travel to Calgary for the Provincial Championship. There was only one full team in this section, as Stratford Elementary fielded

four participants. The best of them was Sean Kenneth Mah who scored 4/5. Division 2 tournament had 14 participants and an exciting finish.

Stratford Elementary was leading all the way up to the last round, but towards the very end Forest Heights took over and won first place, as they were led by Lenard Grossmann who scored 5/5! Stratford finished in second place but because Forest Heights couldn't come to the Provincials, they took their place and brought 9 players to the provincial event! A special recognition should be given to David Yao and Nrithya Bal from Westmount who scored 8 points together. Unfortunately, no one else from their school attended the event, a situation which will hopefully change for next year's tournament!

The Jr. High and High School events were combined as six participants took part. The overall winner was IM Richard Wang with a perfect 5/5. Second was shared by Richard's teammate from Old Scona-Sammy Wu and the future AB Jr. High Champion-Sisan Fregene from Elmer S. Gish with 3/5 each. The winning High School team was Old Scona while the Provincial Jr. High Champions were: Elmer S. Gish team.

A special thanks goes to Harris Wang who organized and directed the event and Terry Seehagen who helped with the organization.

Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Paul Viminitz
Email vimip0@uleth.ca

Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South
(on the second floor in the games room)
6:00pm until 9 or 10pm
www.lethbridgechess.ca

Solution to problem from page 31:

1. Bb1 b2 2. Ra2 b3 3. Ra3 b4 4. Ra4 b5 5. Ra5 b6 6. Be4#

*G. Bridgewater, Chess 1936
(The "Caterpillar" problem)*

Over/Under 1800

August 31-September 1, 2013
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*Sponsored by the
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CFC membership required, annual memberships can be purchased on-site (\$43 for adults and \$28 for juniors). Note: CFC membership (if expired) must be renewed prior to start of round

Organizer: Frank Kluytmans
Head Arbiter: National Arbiter Jim Daniluk/ Frank Kluytmans

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increment

Round Times: Saturday 10 a.m. 2 p.m. 7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. 2pm or ASAP.

Byes: Max 2 half point byes in rds. 1-4 if notified before start of round 1

Prizes: Entries less \$5 expenses per player. Based on number of entries.

Entry Fee: Adult \$35, Junior (20 and under) \$30. Add \$5 for registration at the door. Players rated under 1800 who wish to play in Open, add \$10 to entry fee.

Registration: Enter at the CCC on any Tuesday or Thursday evening or mail your cheque payable to: Calgary Chess Club, #274 3359 27th St. NE, Calgary, AB, T1Y 5E1 Online payments can also be made at the CCC website: http://calgarychess.com/WORDPRESS/?post_type=product

To be added to the pre-registered list email Vlad Rekhson at: vrehkson@yahoo.ca or Frank Kluytmans at: fekluytmans@gmail.com

This is a *Road Warrior* Event!



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 Parma Tech Centre, North Building
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 Saturday from 12:30-5 pm.
 phone: 403.264.9498
 website: www.calgarychess.com

Calgary Junior Chess Club
 Contact: Paul Gagne
 email: paul.gagne@cssd.ab.ca
 website: www.calgarychess.com

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 email: database@telusplanet.net
 website: www.gpchessclub.com

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 phone: 780.875.8186 or 780.871.3995

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 Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca

Medicine Hat Chess Club
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 Contact: Bill Taylor phone: 403.526.5484
 email: taylormw@shaw.ca

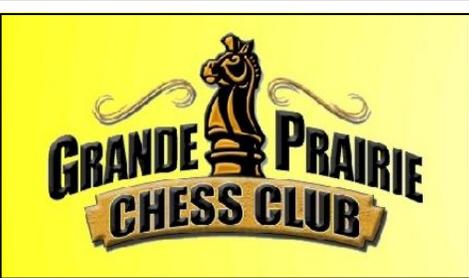
Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club
 Earl Kitchener School, Community Room
 211 4th St. S.E. End of October to early
 March, Saturdays 1:30-4 p.m.
 Contact: Bill Taylor Ph:403.526.5484
 email:taylormw@shaw.ca

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 Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to closing
 Contact: Les Jones
 phone: 780.467.7393

Wainwright Chess Club
 Showtime Video 701-10 Main St.
 Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 Contact: Allen Tinio
 phone: 780.842.4123
 email: amtinio@telus.net

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 TheEdmontonChessClub?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/TheEdmontonChessClub?fref=ts)

National Master Roy Yearwood

Calgary, AB

Chess lessons for all

A meeting with either a youth or adult student will include a goal setting session and evaluation test in order to find out where you want to go with the lessons as well as your foundation of knowledge. I think that this will help in you in getting the knowledge you need in order to play an enjoyable game of chess. This session is free and included in your lesson package.

Lesson packages are available in groups of 3, 5 and 10 sessions.

Sessions will cover topics such as position evaluation and move selection, practice in the use of tactics, analysis of your games where possible.

My rates are \$30/hr. for adults, \$20/hr. for youth (under 18) School instruction \$15/hr. per student participant with a min. of 8 participants in the class and the purchase of the 5 session package.

Participation in all sessions assumes a complete knowledge of the moves and rules of the game. If you need help in this regard you can go to www.chesskids.com and watch the video and do the introductory lessons there. School sessions will include the introduction of new material on openings and middlegame strategy and evaluation tests where necessary, a tournament where games played and recorded will be analysed and possibly rated by both The Chess Federation of Canada and The Chess and Maths Association of Canada.

I have had a recent Criminal records check with the Calgary Police Service, so if school sessions are desired, that area of security is no problem.

I realize that each of us learns a skill in our own way so instruction will include lots of questions and answers so participants should be self motivated confident and willing to give their ideas about what's going on in a position if asked. Chess when played with knowledge is quite enjoyable and challenging. I sincerely hope that I can help you in getting that knowledge. Contact me by email for more information.

fredandorroy@live.ca



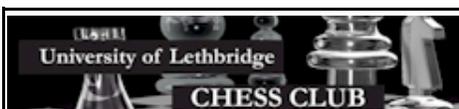
Play Chess in Alberta's Universities!



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Chess Association

Contact Michael Wanless
mwanless@gmail.com



**University of Lethbridge
Chess Club**

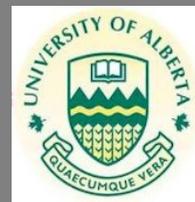
Contact Gregory Holmes
Email

gregory.d.holmes.1@facebook.com



- ◇ All skill levels welcome to attend!
- ◇ Blitz once each month in CAB 373 or 369

Email uachess@ualberta.ca for info
<http://uachess.wetpaint.com/>



2013 Alberta Open Chess Championship



October 12-14, 2013
 Edmonton Chess Club
 #204 10840 124 st. Edmonton, AB T5M-0H3
 Phone: 1-780-424-0283

Tournament Director: Rick Pedersen rpedersen@interbaun.com

CFC & FIDE rated. CFC membership is required and can be purchased at site. Your CFC membership must be paid prior to round 1.

Minimum Guaranteed Prize Fund: \$1,000. \$400 first place guarantee

Projected Prize Fund (based on 48 entries) \$1,600

The winner (if an Albertan) qualifies to the 2014 Alberta Closed Championship

Format: 6 round Open Swiss.

Time Control: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves, then an extra 30 minutes for the game, with a 30-second increment from move 1.

Round Times: Saturday, 10 am & 4 pm, Sunday 10 am & 5 pm. Monday 9 am & 2 pm or ASAP. Byes: A maximum of 2 half point byes available in the first 5 rounds. All byes must be registered before the start of round 1.

Entry Fee: \$40 before October 12th (if space is available). \$45 on-site. GM/IM: Free.

Advanced entries can be paid to Rick Pedersen at the Edmonton club or Vlad Rekhson at the Calgary club, or mail a cheque payable to the Edmonton Chess Club at address above. Cash only after Oct. 8th. Advanced entries will be posted on our website.

www.albertachess.org/2013AO.html

Space is limited to 60 players so sign up early.

On-site registration (if space is still available) on Saturday, October 12th from 9 am to 9:45 am.

ACA General Meeting: The ACA Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday, October 13th at 3:30 pm in the skittles room of the Edmonton Chess Club.

Accommodation: www.glenorabnb.com (closest hotel to the tournament site).

Phone: 1 (877) 453-6672 When you call ask for the 10% chess discount.

Estimated prizes based on 48 paid participants:

1. \$400
2. \$210
3. \$120



Best under 2200:

1. \$180
2. \$90



Best under 1900:

1. \$160
2. \$80

Best under 1600:

1. \$140
2. \$70

Best Jr: (20 and under): \$90

Best Jr: (20 and under and rated under 1500): \$60

-Prizes are subject to change.

**Jr. Prizes will only be awarded if at least 6 junior players take part.



This is a *Road Warrior* event
 Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association