

Alberta Chess Report



Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ August 2014



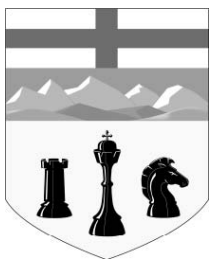
Team South prevails at 2013 Battle of AB against all odds



Alex Yam wins AB Closed



Diwen Shi is a surprising winner of the 2014 Fort McMurray Open



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

In 2014 the ACR will be published in August, October and December. If you would like to submit an article to one of the next issues, please contact the editor for deadlines and changes. Your submissions are very welcome as we are always looking for articles on chess related to Alberta. Any electronic text file is acceptable, while pictures may be sent in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif.

The editor may be contacted by email: albertachess@gmail.com
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Letter from the Editor

By Vladimir Pechenkin

The Alberta Chess Association has gone through some changes over the course of the year 2014, which considerably delayed the production of this issue of the ACR.



Vlad Rekhson (on the photo above) somewhat unexpectedly stepped down as the Executive Director (ED) of the ACA in March. He has served the association well since February, 2011, but decided to pursue other goals in life. The ACA would like to thank Vlad for all the great work he has done as an ED and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A replacement was not immediately available. Bradley Willis stepped up as an interim director but was unable to continue for long because of his sudden illness.



Bradley Willis at the 2014 Alberta Seniors

Ultimately, yours truly was appointed as a new permanent Executive Director and took the office in April.



Now, it's not hard to imagine that covering more than 30 tournaments in a single ACR issue is not a trivial task. A few articles had been already drafted by Vlad Rekhson and required but a little extra editorial work. Those are explicitly credited to the previous editor. A number of tournaments, however, had nothing but a crosstable. Those are covered very briefly as there is no virtually no material to work with. The layout of this ACR remains essentially the same as in the past to be compatible with the articles already written.

The first ACA event that I witnessed as an ED was the 2014 Alberta Closed. This and subsequent tournaments will receive more detailed coverage, with photos and games where available. I have decided to put off the 9th Edmonton International festival (along with the Qualifier) until the next issue. Otherwise, the volume of this one would have been prohibitively large.

The content of the ACR is not going to change dramatically although I do intend to include more games from Open tournaments with more detailed and (hopefully) more instructive comments. Previous editors have always welcomed contributions from ACA members, and I'll be no exception. In fact, the next couple of issues are likely to feature articles by GM Eric Hansen who currently resides in Europe.

My last comment refers to the rating list on the right of this column. Somehow, the 2014 Fort McMurray Open was not rated by FIDE. Instead, the 2013 edition of the same tournament was rated for the second time. Therefore, quite a few players' FIDE ratings are incorrect. Those are *italicized*.

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As of Aug 20, 2014

1	Hansen, Eric	2630
2	Porper, Edward	2485
3	Wang, Richard	2433
4	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2397
5	Yam, Alex	2367
6	Gicev, Blagoj	2360
7	Reeve, Jeff	2321
8	Valencia, Belsar	2311
9	Kazmaier, Daniel	2297
10	Haynes, Nicolas	2285
11	Neven, Knut	2258
12	Gardner, Robert J.	2255
13	Rekhson, Vladislav	2252
14	Miller, David	2251
15	Haessel, Dale	2246
16	Ng, Gary	2237
17	Booker, Brad	2232
18	Boik, Andrew	2222
19	Hughey, Micah	2222
20	Kostadinov, Georgi	2211
21	Gluckie, Jamin	2200
22	Shi, Diwen	2194
23	Robichaud, Martin	2193
24	Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz	2188
25	Tam, Erik	2164
26	Nguyen, Kim	2154
27	Sequillion, Aaron	2150
28	Yearwood, Roy	2140
29	Ottosen, David	2128
30	Abdelrhman, Hamid	2117
31	Cheng, Louis	2113
32	Beaudry, Lukas	2087
33	Kazakevich, Anastasia	2074
34	Daniluk, Jim	2052
35	Parveen, Seyda Shabana	2052
36	Eshleman, Brandon	2043
37	Karmali, Hafiz	2039
38	Gold, Itohan	2031
39	Tran-Ly, Tristan	2017
40	Wen, Jean-Francois	2015

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

As of Aug 1, 2014

1	GM Hansen, Eric	2593
2	IM Porper, Edward	2432
3	IM Wang, Richard	2374
4	FM Pechenkin, Vladimir	2327
5	FM Gicev, Blagoj	2305
6	Yam, Alex	2285
7	Reeve, Jeff	2245
8	Valencia, Belsar	2223
9	Kazmaier, Daniel	2204
10	Haynes, Nicholas	2170

Interview with Diwen Shi

By Vlad Rekhson

In the past year Calgarian Diwen Shi has made quite a progress. His rating went from the 1900s to the upper 2100s as he established himself as one of the top juniors in Alberta. 13-year-old Diwen has agreed to answer a few questions and to share some thoughts with the Alberta Chess community.



Diwen Shi

budapestchessnew.blogspot.ca

VR: When did you start playing chess?

DS: I started at 6.

VR: What got you interested in the game?

DS: I liked to play board games and I found it to be more interesting than other board games, because there were many ways for a game to go, and it required more skill than luck.

VR: How many hours per week/day do you typically spend on chess?

DS: I usually spend around an average of an hour a day on chess, though some days I don't really spend much time, and some I spend quite a bit of time

VR: Do you practice with a coach or by yourself?

DS: I usually practice by myself, but I do have a coach.

VR: Over the past year, your rating went up by almost 300 points. What do you think was the major reason or reasons for such a dramatic improvement?

DS: I think that I finally started seriously working on my openings, and now it is much easier to play.

VR: Do you spend most of your training on openings?

DS: No, I think that analyzing middle-

game positions is much more beneficial to your chess once you have knowledge of some opening theory.

VR: In mid-December you will travel to play in the World Under 14 Championship. What are your goals in this event?

DS: My goals are to gain some Fide rating points and improve on my score last year, which was 50%.

VR: What are your chess goals in general?

DS: I would like to improve, and try to win some prizes in larger tournaments like national tournaments.

VR: Of course you played quite a few interesting games over the last few years but what is your most memorable game?

DS: I think my most memorable game would be the first game in the first tournament I played as far as I remember, where I beat the highest rated player in the tournament. Unfortunately, I don't have the full game, I only remember a few details about it. As far as the most memorable game that has been saved it is against Bryon Vega from a Pan-American Championship.

VR: And finally, what would you recommend to a young player who just starts playing chess?

DS: I would really just recommend to work on your intuition and knowing when and what to play, as it will make it much easier in the future.

Shi, Diwen - Bryon,Vega [B12]

Pan-American Chess Championship

1.e4 d6 2.d4 c6 3.Be3 Nd7 4.Bc4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Qd2 e6 7.Bb3 Ne7 8.Nge2 0-0 9.f3 a5 10.a4 d5 11.h4 f5 12.Nf4 Nf6 13.e5 Nh5 14.Nce2 Nxf4 15.Bxf4 h5 16.Bg5 Kh7 17.Nf4 Qe8 18.0-0 Ng8 19.Rdg1 Bh6 20.g4! Bxg5 21.hxg5 fxg4 22.fxg4 Qf7 23.Nxg6 Qxg6 24.gxh5 Qe4 25.g6+ Kg7 26.h6+ Kh8 27.g7+ Kh7



28.gxf8N+ Kh8 29.Qg5 Qh7 30.Qg7+ Qxg7 31.hxg7# 1-0

Edmonton Junior Championship

By Vlad Rekhson

The 2013 Edmonton Junior Championship took place at the Edmonton Chess Club on the weekend of September 28-29. Harris Wang ran the event which featured three different sections: Open, Girls and Under 1300 tournaments. The Open section served as a qualifier for the 2013 AB Junior Championship, but there were some nice prizes in other sections as well, including ACA sponsored coaching, free entry to AB Championship, trophies and medals.

The Open section had a total of 9 participants. Many considered Tristan Tran-Ly the pre-tournament favourite considering the fact that he showed some very strong performances at the Edmonton club events. Unfortunately, Tristan wasn't able to show his best play during this event which opened up the field for the competition. It seemed like while there were some very exciting games, several had big blunders committed by some of the event's top rated players. In the end David Yao emerged as the most consistent player and finished with 4.5/5. The biggest surprise of the tournament was the second place finisher-Robert Gibson from Fort McMurray. Robert picked up the game just a couple of years ago, and managed to show a very nice result in this event despite being the second lowest rated player at the start. Robert finished with 4/5. Third was shared by Kaixin Wang and Lenard Grossmann with 3/5 each, but due to a better tie-break, Kaixin was awarded the third place prize.

In the U-1300 section, Sean Kenneth Mah finished clear first with an impressive 6.5/7. It is clear that Sean is now done with the U-1300 section for good. Dennis Robitu was second with 5/7, while third was shared by: Andi Superceanu, Andrew Carlson and Prayus Shrestha. Due to better head to head results Andi was awarded third place in the competition.

The Girls section included two participants, even though both were relatively strong. Carla Robitu defeated Sydney Mah by a score of 2-0. Afterwards they joined the Open and U-1300 sections of the event, respectively.

Below is a quick win by the Open section winner David Yao. David showed that it is important to know classic games. He used the famous Legall trap to win his game.

Yao, David (1513)-Burn, Johnny (1408)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 d6 4.0-0 Bg4 5.Nc3 Nd4? 6.Nxe5!! Bxd1??

[After 6...dxe5 7.Qxg4 Nxc2 8.Rb1 White is better but it's far from over]

7.Bxf7+ Ke7 8.Nd5# 1-0

Here is the original:

Sire de Legal-Saint Brie (Paris, 1750)

e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bc4 Bg4?! 4. Nc3 g6? 5. Nxe5!! Bxd1?? 6. Bxf7+ Ke7 7. Nd5# 1-0

Calgary Junior Championship

By Vlad Rekhson

The Calgary Junior Championship took place at the Calgary Chess Club on the weekend of October 19-20. The tournament had four sections: Open, Under 1300, Under 800 and Girls. The winner of the Open section received a spot at the 2013 Alberta Junior Championship but prizes were available for players in all sections. The Open section was a two way tie, between Patrick Angelo Tolentino and Tamir Bulga (4/5 each). However, Patrick earned the spot in the Championship due to his win against Tamir in the direct encounter between the two. Third place was won by Chenxi Wu who edged Andre Angelo Tolentino in a play-off game. Both of them scored 3.5/5. The Under 1300 section also had a tie for first between Zeling Li and Nimai Koneru (5.5/7 each), but Zeling edged Nimai due to a win in the direct encounter between the two. Third place went to Andrew Xu (4.5/7). Best in the Under 800 section went to Michael Chen who finished with a perfect 5/5 (the only perfect score of the tournament). Second place went to Jason Wang ahead of Arjay Abad (both scored 3/5). The winner of the Girls competition was: Shekinah Munoz (5/6). Second went to: Chantel Bustos (4/6) ahead of Shairah Munoz (3/6). Special thanks goes to: Paul Gagne, Angelo Tolentino and Ghirindar Koneru, as well as several other volunteers who helped run the event!

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

2013 Southern AB Open

By Tony Ficzer

The mild weekend weather in Calgary did not match the fierce competition indoors. They had come to get their chance to qualify for the 2014 Alberta Closed, and if they could win there, the Canadian Closed, and then onwards towards the World Chess Championship. The 2013 Southern Alberta Open attracted a strong field at the top, attracting at least 6 masters, and a number of other hopefuls. I had been lured from retirement to direct as Frank Kluytmans was ill and could not make the event. Frank is recuperating and will be back at the helm very soon.

Round 1 went as expected, all the players who should have won their game did, with the exception of Gary Ng vs. Tamir Bulga. Tamir is on the rise and you never know what to expect from a hungry junior. Gary may have taken the game lightly at the beginning, but had to buckle down to get the draw. Tamir had a great event, posting a 2036 performance rating which is several hundred points above his head.

Jim Daniluk has been on a bit of a roll lately. At the last Battle of Alberta Jim split his match with Edmonton's Peter Kalisvaart and also posted a respectable result at the Alberta Open going 4/6. And then Jim went undefeated at the recent Chris Kuczaj Memorial, finishing with 4.5/5. His Round 2 opponent was Vlad Rekhson. Jim was able to turn the tables and impaled Vlad by taking the full point. The juniors did pretty good this round as well. David Miller stole a half point of the Squeeler (Aaron Sequillion) while Jeff Wang upset Mark Dodd.

In your typical 5 round swiss, you play 3 games on Saturday followed by the 2 money rounds on Sunday. That's a lot of chess in a weekend, but hey, we're Canadians. We like it tough. Well, most of us do, but there were several players who took advantage of the half point round 3 bye, giving them a chance to re-charge their batteries. Round 3 saw no major upsets, but Douglas Nechio did manage to take half the point from Kim Nguyen. After the round finished, a few of us were left stranded at the club due to transportation issues. Myself, the Squeeler and David Miller had to rough it out at the club. I spent the night sleeping semi-vertically (well, didn't really sleep that much).

Now we are getting to the good stuff. Round 4 was exciting to watch from a

spectator's point of view. Several interesting games took place. The top board was also the last to finish as Sequillion vs. Kazmaier demonstrated that having a 30 second increment can extend well past the 4th hour of play! Aaron had a clear advantage for much of the game and protected his better position when it got down to the increment, being very careful not to make a mistake. Dan played on knowing he was on the bad side of it, and presented Aaron with several traps along the way. The Squeeler passed the test and won, putting him on the top board in the final round. Phil Holmstrom gave David Miller and exciting game as well. It was a see-saw battle and when it got down to the end-game, I'm sure David missed his chance. Phil wound up on top, having queen vs. rook, but the game ended in a draw, likely due to hunger! Tamir continued his winning ways by upsetting Nechio. Of course, all of the late finishing games made the 5th and final round start a bit late.

The 5th round saw several upsets. Gary Ng made no mistakes and gave no opportunities to Sequillion. Aaron's hopes for qualifying had vanished like a pizza in a parlour. Gary played solid chess throughout, with only one minor hick-up back in the first round to take the top prize all by himself (4.5/5), qualifying for the next Alberta Closed. His devoted better half was present at all of his games as a spectator. One has to wonder how well she can play chess?! Dale Haessel finished in 2nd all by himself (4/5), only losing to Kazmaier in round 3. Tamir managed to split the point with Daniluk, his 3rd upset of the tournament. Eventually, Tamir's rating will catch up to his actual playing strength. Filthy Phil Holmstrom also chalked up an upset in the final round by defeating Adam Harris. Phil and Tamir split the cash in the U2000 section. Despite Tamir's list of fine upsets, it was Suresh Kadavil who took the prize for the biggest upset with win against Nguyen in round 4.

Thanks to Jim Daniluk, Vlad Rekhson and especially to Dewese Wood for their help during the tournament. Dewese not only filled as my spare player, but also did triple duty by keeping the coffee fresh and the place clean throughout the event. I will now slip back into retirement and return to my couch to become the potato that I really am.

Tourism
CALGARY

Alex Yam is a new Alberta Closed Champion

The 2014 edition of the annual Alberta Closed Championship was held in Edmonton over the course of the Easter weekend.

The tournament maintained its status as being the most prestigious event in the province although the player roster wasn't as formidable as in 2013.

The pre-tournament favorites to win the title were IMs Edward Porper (2438 FIDE) and Richard Wang (2368 FIDE). Richard had won two of the three qualifiers (2013 Alberta Open and 2014 Northern Alberta Open), while Edward qualified by rating. The third qualifier (2013 Southern Alberta Open) was won by NM Gary Ng (2140 FIDE) who thus earned the right to participate in his first Alberta Closed event.

The three remaining players were selected by rating: NM Alex Yam (2278 FIDE), FM Dale Haessel (2198 FIDE) and NM Robert Gardner (2173 FIDE). Each of them was clearly capable of delivering a big surprise...

Round 1: Friday, April 18th

IM Edward Porper **1:0** NM Alex Yam



Surprisingly, the game was decided relatively quickly. After Black's careless **8...♞e8?** (**8...♞e7** was better) White's **9. c5!** suddenly threatened to trap the opponent's bishop. Alex had to jettison a pawn for not much at all turning the rest of the game into an uphill struggle. To be fair, Black did not make use of all his defensive resources, the decisive mistake being a pseudo-active **23...e5?**

Porper, Edward (2438) - Yam, Alex (2278) [E16]

2014 Alberta Closed (1), 18.04.2014

1.♠f3 ♠f6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 ♞b4+ 4.♞d2 a5 5.g3 b6 6.♞g2 ♞b7 7.0-0 0-0 8.♞f4 ♞e8



9.c5! a4 10.a3 ♞a5 11.♞xa4 ♞d2 12.♞c2 ♞xf4 13.gxf4 bxc5 14.dxc5 ♠c6 15.♠c3 ♠e7 16.♠h4 ♞xg2 17.♠xg2 ♞b8 18.b4 ♠ed5 19.♠e4 ♠xe4 20.♞xe4 c6 21.♞f3 f5 22.♞fd1 ♞a7 23.♞ab1 e5 24.b5 ♞b7 25.b6 exf4 26.♞xd5 cxd5 27.♞xd5+ ♠h8 28.a4 d6 29.♞xd6 ♞xd6 30.cxd6 g5 31.a5 ♞a8 32.♞b5 ♠g7 33.♠e1 ♞ab8 34.♠d3 ♞d7 35.a6 f3 36.exf3 ♞xd6 37.a7 1-0

NM Rob Gardner $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$ IM Richard Wang



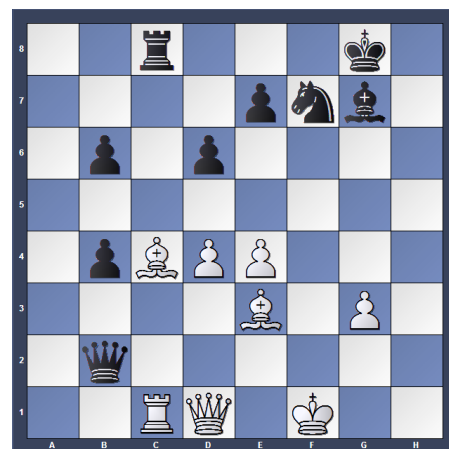
This was a relatively clean game where the computer evaluation never deviated much from equality. Black won a pawn but White's initiative along with the bishop pair provided full compensation. Richard's key move was **26...d5!** forcing favorable simplifications. In the final position Black offered a draw just before White could

exchange one of the bishops reaching a completely drawn opposite-color bishop endgame.

Gardner, Robert (2173) - Wang, Richard (2368) [B20]

2014 Alberta Closed (1), 18.04.2014

1.g3 c5 2.♞g2 ♠c6 3.e4 g6 4.d3 ♞g7 5.f4 d6 6.♠f3 ♠f6 7.0-0 ♞g4 8.h3 ♞xf3 9.♞xf3 0-0 10.c3 ♠d7 11.♞e3 ♞c8 12.♠d2 b5 13.h4 b4 14.♞c1 ♞a5 15.♠c4 ♞a6 16.h5 ♠b6 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.♠xb6 axb6 19.f5 ♞xa2 20.fxg6 ♠e5 21.gxf7+ ♞xf7 22.♞e2 ♞xf1+ 23.♠xf1 ♞xb2 24.d4 ♠f7 25.♞c4 cxd4 26.cxd4



26...d5! 27.♞xd5 ♞xc1 28.♞xc1 ♞xc1+ 29.♞xc1 ♞xd4 30.♠e2 ♠g7 31.♠d3 ♞c3 32.♞f4 ♠f6 33.♠c4 e6 34.♞c6 ♠e5+ $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$

NM Gary Ng **1:0** FM Dale Haessel



One of those games where it's hard to figure out what was going on even with the help of the computer. Black obtained a good position out of the opening but then gradually lost control of his pieces. After **24. ♠xd6!** White was already winning as Black did not have a satisfactory defence against a multitude of the opponent's threats.

Ng, Gary (2140) - Haessel, Dale (2198) [A00]
2014 Alberta Closed (1), 18.04.2014

1.b4 e5 2.♙b2 ♗xb4 3.♙xe5 ♖f6
4.♗c3 ♙e7 5.e4 0-0 6.♖b1 ♗e8
7.♗ge2 ♗c6 8.♙xf6 ♙xf6 9.d4 ♗a5
10.♖d3 g6 11.g3 d6 12.♙g2 c5
13.♗d5 ♙g7 14.c3 ♙e6 15.0-0 ♖b8
16.♖b2 f5 17.♗ef4 ♙d7 18.♗e3 fxe4
19.♙xe4 cxd4 20.cxd4 ♗c6 21.♙d5+
♗h8 22.♗c4 ♙f5 23.♖a3 ♙xd4



24.♗xd6! ♖f6 25.♖xb7 ♙xf2+ 26.♖xf2
♖e1+ 27.♗g2 ♖xb7 28.♗xb7 ♗e7
29.♙f3 g5 30.♗d5 ♖a1 31.♖c3+
♖xc3 32.♗xc3 g4 33.♙d1 ♖e3
34.♗d6 ♖xc3 35.♗xf5 1-0

Round 2: Saturday, April 19th

NM Rob Gardner ½:½ IM Edward Porper

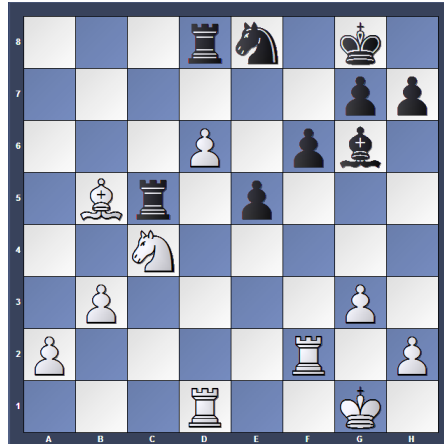


I don't think that either player can be satisfied with this game. The advantage changed hands way too many times because of a number of dubious decisions from both sides. At some point Rob's position looked completely overwhelming yet it was him who had to struggle for a draw in the rook endgame. His tournament prospects did look quite promising after the

round, since Rob managed to draw both rating favorites.

Gardner, Robert (2173) - Porper, Edward (2438) [A00]
2014 Alberta Closed (2), 19.04.2014

1.g3 d5 2.♙g2 c6 3.d3 ♗f6 4.♗d2 e5
5.e4 ♙g4 6.f3 ♙e6 7.♗e2 ♖b6 8.c3
dxe4 9.♗xe4 ♗xe4 10.fxe4 ♗a6
11.d4 ♖d8 12.0-0 ♙e7 13.♙e3 0-0
14.♖d2 ♖d7 15.b3 ♗c7 16.♗h1 a5?!
17.d5! ♙c5 18.♙xc5 ♖xc5 19.c4 f6
20.♗c3 ♙f7 21.♗a4 ♖a7 22.♖f2 ♖xf2
23.♖xf2 ♗a6 24.♙h3 ♖dd8 25.♖d1 b5
26.cxb5 cxb5 27.♙f1 ♙g6? 28.♙xb5
♙xe4+ 29.♗g1 ♗c7 30.♙c4 ♖d6
31.♗c5 ♙g6 32.♗b7 ♗e8 33.♗xa5 ♖f7
34.♙b5 ♖c7 35.♗c4 ♖d8 36.d6 ♖c5



37.♙xe8? ♙xe8 38.♖fd2 ♙c6 39.a4?
♙xa4 40.bxa4 ♖xc4 41.a5 ♖c6 42.d7
♗f7 43.♖b1 ♖a6 44.♖d5 ♖a7 45.♖b6
♖dxd7 46.♖xd7+ ♖xd7 47.a6 ♖d2
48.♖b7+ ♗g6 49.a7 ♖a2 50.♖e7 h5
51.h4 ♗h6 52.♖f7 e4 53.♖e7 f5 54.
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63.♖xe3 ♖xa7 64.♗f2 ♖a4 65.♗f3
♖g4 66.♖a3 f4 67.♖a5+ ♗e6 68.♖a6+
♗f5 69.♖a5+ ♗f6 70.♖a6+ ♗g7 71.
♖a7+ ♗h6 72.gxf4 ♖xh4 73.♖a6 ½-½

NM Alex Yam 1:0 NM Gary Ng

White patiently nurtured his long-term advantage in space obtained in the opening but Black's position wasn't easy to crack. The outcome of the game was decided shortly before the time control. Instead of defending passively Gary sought counterplay on the kingside. However, the black pieces were not ready to support his ambi-

tious pawn mass, and Alex was able to quickly capitalize on freshly created weaknesses in the enemy camp.

Yam, Alex (2278) - Ng, Gary (2140) [B00]
2014 Alberta Closed (2), 19.04.2014

1.e4 b6 2.d4 ♙b7 3.♙d3 ♗f6 4.♖e2
♗c6 5.c3 e5 6.♗f3 d6 7.♙a6 ♙xa6
8.♖xa6 ♙e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.d5 ♗b8
11.♖e2 ♗bd7 12.c4 a5 13.♗c3 ♗c5
14.♖b1 ♗fd7 15.♖c2 h6 16.b3 ♙g5
17.♗xg5 hxg5 18.a3 g6 19.b4 ♗b7
20.♖d2 f6 21.♖e3 ♗f7 22.♖g3 ♖h8
23.♙e3 ♖h5 24.h3 ♗g7 25.♗b5 ♖h4
26.f3 ♖h5 27.♖fc1 ♗h8 28.♖g4 ♖h4
29.♖g3 ♖h5 30.♖f2



30...f5?! 31.exf5 gxf5 32.♖c2 g4 33.
fxg4 fxg4 34.hxg4 ♖h7 35.g5! ♗f8
36. ♖f1+- ♖e8 37.♖e2 axb4 38.axb4
♖g6 39.♖a1 ♖xa1 40.♖xa1 ♖e4 41.
♖f3 ♖xf3 42.gxf3 ♗d8 43.♖a8 ♖d7
44. ♖c8 ♗g7 45. ♗xc7 ♗g6 46. ♗a8
1-0

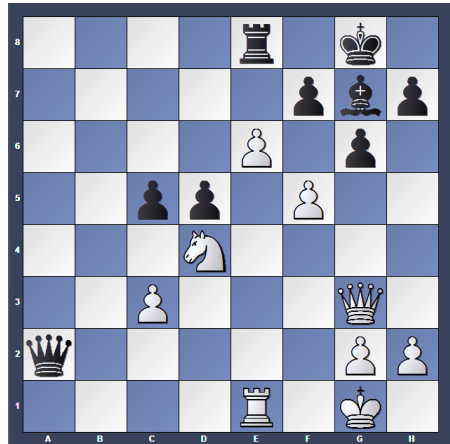
IM Richard Wang 1:0 FM Dale Haessel

Black has played well most of the game making his formidable opponent fight for equality. The outcome of the battle was decided on move 28 by Dale's unfortunate blunder. Had he found the correct sequence of moves, the game would have quickly ended in a draw.

Wang, Richard (2368) - Haessel, Dale (2198) [D00]
2014 Alberta Closed (2), 19.04.2014

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 g6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♙f4
♙g7 5.e3 0-0 6.♙e2 c5 7.♗e5 ♗c6 8.

0-0 cxd4 9.exd4 ♖b6 10.♗xc6 bxc6 11.♗a4 ♖a5 12.c3 ♗d7 13.b4 ♖d8 14.♙g4 ♗b6 15.♗c5 ♙xg4 16.♖xg4 ♗c4 17.♖fe1 ♖e8 18.♖g3 a5 19.♙c7 ♖c8 20.bxa5 e5 21.♙xe5 ♗xe5 22.dxe5 ♖xa5 23.♗b3 ♖a3 24.f4 ♖a6 25.f5 ♖xa2 26.♖xa2 ♖xa2 27.♗d4 c5 28.e6



28...♖a7? Loses immediately. The correct sequence is 28...fxe6 29.♗xe6 ♖d2! 30.fxg6 ♖xc3 31.gxh7+ ♗h8 32.♖xc3 ♙xc3 33.♖e2 d4 34.♗f4 ♖xe2 35.♗xe2 ♗xh7 followed by a handshake. 29.♗b5 ♖e7 30.♗d6 ♙xc3 31.exf7+ 1-0

Round 3: Saturday, April 19th

IM Edward Porper 1/2:1/2 IM Richard Wang



The head-to-head encounter of the two rating favorites ended in a short draw. Black's treatment of the opening looked a little risky but White was unable to prove it over the board.

Porper,Edward (2438) – Wang,Richard (2368) [A06]
2014 Alberta Closed (3), 19.04.2014

1.♗f3 d5 2.b3 ♙g4 3.e3 e5 4.h3 ♙xf3 5.♖xf3 ♗c6 6.♙b2 ♖d6 7.♙b5 ♗ge7 8.0-0 a6 9.♙xc6+ ♗xc6 10.♗c3 ♖d8

11.♖g3 ♖g6 12.♖xg6 hxg6 13.♗e2 d4 14.exd4 exd4 15.♖fe1 ♙e7 16.♗f4 0-0 17.♗d3 ♖fe8 18.♖e2 ♙d6 19.♖ae1 ♗f8 1/2-1/2

FM Dale Haessel 0:1 NM Alex Yam



This game also finished quickly but the outcome turned out to be decisive. Black came up with an interesting novelty in the opening: 9...d6!? forcing the opponent to react precisely. Failure to do so entailed a swift and cruel punishment.

Haessel,Dale (2198) – Yam,Alex (2278) [A52]
2014 Alberta Closed (3), 19.04.2014

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ♗g4 4.♗f3 ♙c5 5.e3 ♗c6 6.a3 a5 7.b3 0-0 8.♙b2 ♖e8 9.♗bd2 d6!? 10.♗e4 ♙a7 11.♖c2? It is hard to believe but White is already in serious trouble after this normal-looking move. A safe continuation is 11.♙e2 ♗cxe5 12.♗xe5 ♗xe5 13.0-0 with equality. 11...♗gxe5 12.♗xe5 ♗xe5 13.♗g3 ♗g4! 14.♙e2



14...♗xf2!! 15.♖c3 Accepting the sacrifice leads to a crushing attack: 15.♗xf2 ♖xe3 16.♗e1 ♖h4 etc. 15...♖g5

White resigned as he is helpless after 16.♗xf2 ♖xe3. 0-1

NM Gary Ng 1/2:1/2 NM Rob Gardner

As in the previous round, Gary allowed the opponent to seize a lot of space in the opening. Fortunately for him, Rob couldn't convert this space advantage into anything tangible. It seems that the idea of doubling the rooks along the f-file (22...♖f6 and 23...♖af8) was not the right way to increase the pressure even though it looked quite logical. After the exchange of all the rooks the advantage changed hands, and it was White who was pressing for a win till the end of the game. The most interesting moment occurred on move 43. White missed a great resource 43.♗e1!! that would have presented his opponent with difficult practical problems to solve.

Ng,Gary (2140) – Gardner,Robert (2173) [A00]
2014 Alberta Closed (3), 19.04.2014

1.b4 d5 2.♙b2 ♗f6 3.♗f3 e6 4.a3 a5 5.b5 c5 6.e3 ♗bd7 7.d3 ♙d6 8.c4 0-0 9.♗bd2 ♖e8 10.♖c2 e5 11.e4 d4 12.h3 ♗h5 13.0-0-0 g6 14.g3 b6 15.♙e2 ♙b7 16.♗h4 ♗g7 17.♖hf1 f5 18.♙f3 f4 19.♗b1 ♖f8 20.♗g2 ♗e6 21.h4 ♖e7 22.♙g4 ♖f6 23.♗f3 ♖af8 24.♖e2 fxg3 25.fxg3 h5 26.♙h3 ♖f7 27.♗h2 ♖xf1 28.♖xf1 ♖e7 29.♙c1 ♖xf1 30.♖xf1 ♗d8 31.g4 ♖f7 32.gxh5 gxh5 33.♖e2 ♙c8 34.♗f1 ♙d7 35.♗g3 ♗g7 36.♙xd7 ♗xd7 37.♙g5 ♗f6 38.♖f3 ♗fe8 39.♗f5 ♗xf5 40.exf5 ♗g7?! Prophylactic 40...♙c7! with a completely equal position is best. 41.♙d8! ♙c7 42.♙xc7 ♖xc7.



43.♖d5+ Now the game ends in a draw as Black has just enough time to eliminate all White's pawns. The best move is an amazing 43.♗e1!! White improves his worst piece and forces the opponent to make a difficult practical choice. The following sample continuation would have been quite exciting to see: 43...♗f7 44.♖c6 ♖xf5 45.♗xb6 ♖g4 46.♗xa5! ♗d1+ 47.♗b2 ♗f5 48.b6 ♗e3 49.a4! ♗e2+ 50.♗a3 ♗c2+ 51.♗xc2 ♗xc2 52.♗e1 ♗xd3+ 53.♗b2 ♖g6 54.a5 ♖g2+ 55.♗a3 ♖f3+ with a likely draw.

43...♗f7 44.♗xe5 ♖xf5 45.♖xf5 ♗xf5 46.♗f4 ♗xh4 47.♗xh5 ♗f7 48.♗f4 ♗g6 49.♗d5 ♗e5 50.♗xb6 ♗xd3 51.♗a4 ♗e7 52.♗c2 ♗e5 53.♗xc5 ♗xc4 54.♗b3 ♗b6 55.a4 ♗d6 56.♗b7+ ♗d5 57.♗xa5 ♗d3 58.♗c3 ♗xa4+ 59.♗xd3 ♗c5 60.♗c4 ½-½

Round 4: Sunday, April 20th

IM Richard Wang 0:1 NM Alex Yam

The most surprising game of the whole tournament as one of the most solid players in the province got crushed with the white pieces in just 23 moves. With the benefit of hindsight, 10. g4?! should have been avoided as the weaknesses created by this ambitious pawn advance later turned out to be irreparable. White's serious prob-



Wang - Yam, after 15...♗c6

lems started at the diagrammed position after 16. ♗e4? while 21. ♗d2? was the point of no return. Alex was ruthless during the final stage of the game.

Wang, Richard (2368) – Yam, Alex (2278) [A41]

2014 Alberta Closed (4), 20.04.2014

1.d4 g6 2.c4 ♗g7 3.e4 d6 4.h3 e6 5.♗f3 ♗e7 6.♗c3 ♗d7 7.♗e3 b6 8.♗d2 h6 9.♗d3 ♗b7 10.g4?! a6 11.a3 c5 12.d5 exd5 13.exd5 b5 14.cxb5 ♗xd5 15.bxa6 ♗c6 (see previous diagram)

16.♗e4? White should prefer 16.♗xd5 ♗xd5 17.♗e2 ♗b6 with an unclear position. 16...♗xc3 17.bxc3 ♗7f6 18.♗d3 ♗xe3 19.♗xe3+ ♗f8 20.0-0 ♗g7



21.♗d2? 21.♖fe1 is the only way to stay in the game. 21...h5! 22.gxh5 The strategically desirable 22.g5 doesn't quite work in view of 22...♗d5 23.♖g3 h4 24.♖g2 ♗f4! 25.♖xc6 ♖xg5+ 26.♗h1 ♗xd3 and White's position is in ruins. 22...♗xh5 23.f4 ♖h8 0-1

IM Edward Porper ½:½ NM Gary Ng

In a fairly standard IQP position Edward played a very strange move 17. ♗b1? that left him struggling for the rest of the game. Black was fully in control and got really close to winning but missed 33...de! White was able to save half a point by tenacious defence in an interesting endgame with unbalanced material.

Porper, Edward (2438) – Ng, Gary (2140) [B22]

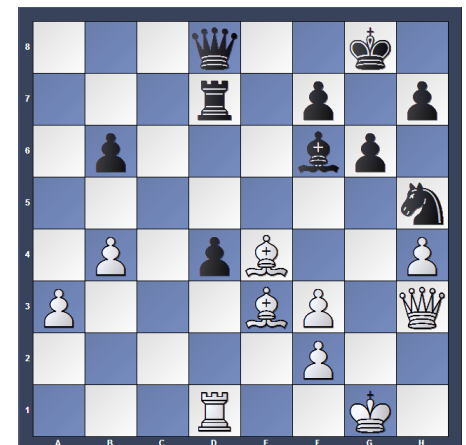
2014 Alberta Closed (4), 20.04.2014

1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗xd5 6.d4 e6 7.♗f3 ♗e7 8.♗d3 ♗c6 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3 b6 11.♖e2 ♗f6 12.♗e3 ♗b7 13.♖ad1 ♖c8 14.♗g5 ♖e8 15.h4 ♗d5 16.♖e4 g6 (see next D) 17.♗b1? Now White's position quickly becomes critical. 17.♗xd5 ♖xd5 18.♖xd5 exd5 is equal although it is understandable that Edward was not inspired by this line. 17...♗a5 18.♖g4



Porper – Ng, after 16...g6

♗c4 19.♗c1 ♗f6 20.♖h3 ♗xf3 21.gxf3 ♗h5 22.♖fe1 ♗d6 23.d5? exd5 Good enough but Black was entitled for more. There is a strong (albeit far from obvious) tactical resource 23...♖xc1! 24.♖xc1 ♗f4 25.♖f1 ♗xh4 when the computer evaluates White's position as completely lost. 24.♗c3 d4 25.♗b5 ♗f6?! This loosens Black's grip on the position. 25...♖c5!? keeps all the advantage. White cannot grab the pawn now as after 26.♗xa7? ♖c7 the knight is trapped. 26.♖xe8+ ♗xe8 27.♗xa7 ♖c5 28.b4 ♖c7 29.♗b5 ♖d7 30.♗e4 ♗c7 31.♗xc7 ♖xc7 Despite Black's inaccuracy, White's position remains unenviable. The h4-pawn is practically doomed. 32.♗e3 ♖d7



33.b5? ♗xh4? Not a bad move but Black misses an immediate win. After 33...dxe3! 34.♖xd7 e2 35.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 White can resign. 34.♗d2 ♗g5 35.♗c6 ♖d6 36.♖e1 ♗xd2! Black ignores the opponent's threat and rightly so. 37.♖e8+ ♖xe8 38.♗xe8 ♖d8 39.♗c6 d3 40.♖h4 ♖d6 41.♖e7 ♗f4 42.♗e8! Black's passed pawn is very strong but White finds the only way to continue. 42...♖f6 43.♗xf7+! ♖xf7 44.♖d8+ ♗g7

45.♟xd3 Black's slight material advantage along with the passed h-pawn may be enough for a win. However, his exposed king is a nuisance that White skillfully utilizes. 45...♙c7 46.♟c3+ ♘g8 47.♟c6 ♘f4 48.♙f1 h5 49.a4 h4 50.a5! bxa5 51.b6 ♙b8 52.♟a8 ♟f8 53.♟xa5 ♟d8 54.♙g1 h3 55.♙h2 ♙h7 The only way Black can make progress at this point is 55...♙f7!? intending the following regrouping: 56.b7 ♟h8 57.♟a2+ ♘e6+ 58.♙h1 ♙f4 59.♟b2 ♟d8 60.♟b3 h2 However, even this may not be enough for a win anymore. 56.b7 ♟f8 57.♟b5 Now Black cannot make any progress although he does keep trying for a few more moves. 57...♙g7 58.♟d7+ ♙f6 59.♟c8 ♙e7 60.♙g3 ♙e5 61.♙h2 ♙f7 62.♟d7+ ♙g8 63.♟c8 ♙b8 64.♙g3 ♙g7 65.♟d7+ ♙h8 66.♙h2 ♟g8 67.♟d4+ ♙h7 68.♟d7+ ♙h6 69.♟c8 ♙h7 70.♟d7+ ♙h6 71.♟c8 ♙g7 72.♟d7+ ♙f6 1/2-1/2

NM Rob Gardner 0:1 FM Dale Haessel

A good game by Dale who managed to capitalize on the opponent's mistakes.

Gardner,Robert (2173) – Haessel,Dale (2198) [D98]

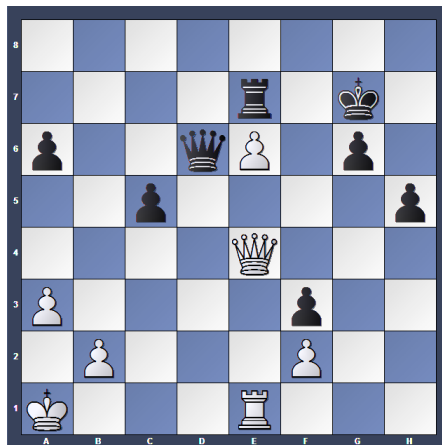
2014 Alberta Closed (4), 20.04.2014

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♟b3 dxc4 6.♟xc4 0-0 7.e4 ♙g4 8.♙e3 ♘c6 9.0-0-0 ♘d7 10.h3 ♙xf3 11.gxf3 e5



12.d5?! After this seemingly logical move White loses his opening advantage. The simple 12.dxe5 is very good as shown in the old game Kuzmin – Bakhmatov, 1963. 12...♘d4 13.f4 b5! 14.♘xb5 ♘xb5 15.♟xb5 ♟b8 16.♟c6

exf4 17.♙d4 ♙xd4 18.♟xd4 ♘e5 19.♟c3 ♟h4 20.♟d2 ♟fe8 21.♙d3?! ♘xd3+ 22.♟xd3 f3! Black is in the driver's seat now. 23.♟e1 ♟xh3 24.e5 ♟bd8 25.♟c4 ♟f5 26.♟c3 f6?! Tempting but incorrect. Black seriously weakens his king's position, which will make it difficult for him to convert his material advantage. A semi-waiting useful move 26...h5!? deserves attention instead. Under favorable circumstances this pawn can advance quickly. 27.e6 ♟xd5 28.♟xd5 ♟xd5 29.♟xf6 ♟c5+ 30.♙b1 ♟f8 31. ♟e5 ♟d6 32.♟e3 ♟e7 33.a3 a6 34. ♟b3 h5 35.♟c4 ♙h7 36.♙a1 c5 37. ♟e4 ♙g7



38.♟xf3? White crumbles under pressure. Instead, after 38.♟e3 Black has got a lot of work to do to get a full point. 38...♟xe6 39.♟d1 ♟e5 40.♟d5 ♟f6 41.♟d1 ♟f4 42.♟xc5 ♟xf2 43.♟d7+ ♙h6 44.♟c7 ♟e1+ 45.♙a2 ♟e6+ 0-1

Round 5: Sunday, April 20th

NM Gary Ng 0:1 IM Richard Wang

Prior to the start of the last round Alex Yam was leading with 3/4. IM Edward Porper was trailing by half a point but his chances to get the title were very real. Essentially, Alex was in a must-win situation as his loss to Edward in their head-to-head encounter would be the first and decisive tie-breaker if the two finished with the same number of points. IM Richard Wang and NM Gary Ng had 2/4 but their chances for the first place looked purely theoretical. The game between the two of them ended relatively quickly setting up the stage for the final drama.

Ng,Gary (2140) – Wang,Richard (2368) [A00]

2014 Alberta Closed (5), 20.04.2014

1.b4 c6 2.♙b2 ♟b6 3.a3 a5 4.c4 axb4 5.c5 ♟c7 6.axb4 ♟xa1 7.♙xa1 d6 8.e3 dxc5 9.bxc5 ♟a5 10.♘c3 ♟xc5



It's hard to say whether White sacrificed a pawn or just lost it. In any case, quick development 11.♘f3 ♘f6 12.♙e2 e6 13.0-0 ♙e7 14.d4 would promise him compensation. 11.♟a4?! e5 12.d4?! exd4 13.exd4 ♟a3! Now Black gets the queens off the board and is simply up a pawn in an end-game. 14.♟xa3 ♙xa3 15.♙c4 ♘f6 16.♘f3 b5 17.♙b3 ♙e6 18.d5 ♘xd5 19.♘xd5 ♙xd5 20.♙xd5 cxd5 21.♘d4 b4 22.♘c2 f6 23.♙e2 ♙e7 24.♟d1 ♟d8 25.♘xa3 bxa3 26.♟d3 ♘c6 27.♟xa3 ♙d6 28.♟h3 ♟a8 29.♙c3 ♟a2+ 30.♙e1 h6 31.♟g3 ♟a7 32.♙b2 d4 33.♙a3+ ♙d5 34.♙f8 g5 35.♙xh6 ♟a1+ 36.♙d2 ♘e5 37.♙g7 ♟a2+ 38.♙e1 ♙c4 39.♙xf6 ♘d3+ 40.♙d1 ♘xf2+ 41.♙c1 ♘e4 42.♟f3 ♟xg2 43.♙e5 d3 44.♟f8 ♟g1+ 45.♙b2 d2 0-1

FM Dale Haessel 0:1 IM Edward Porper

A see-saw battle of nerves. High stakes is a plausible explanation of a number of mistakes from both sides. Edward's attack ultimately paid off even though he could have finished the game before the time control.

Haessel,Dale (2198) – Porper,Edward (2438) [E33]

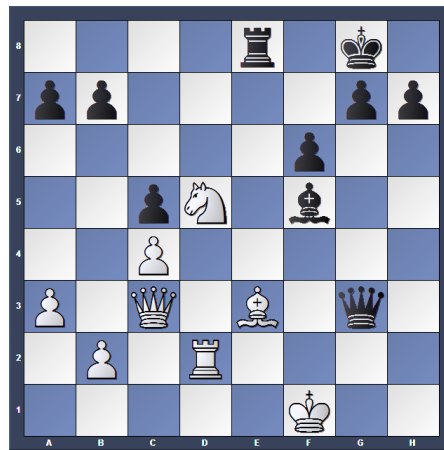
2014 Alberta Closed (5), 20.04.2014

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♟c2 ♘c6 5.♘f3 d6 6.g3 0-0 7.♙g2 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.0-0 ♙xc3 10.♟xc3 e4

11. ♖g5 ♖e8 12. ♗e3 ♗f5 13. ♘h3 ♘g4
 14. ♖ad1 ♗e7 15. ♗c1 ♘b4?! 16. ♗g5
 Both players underestimate 16.a3! as
 16... ♘a2? 17. ♗a5! ♘xc1 18. ♗xf5
 ♘xe2+ 19. ♘h1 ♘f6 20. ♖d2 leaves the
 knight trapped. 16...f6 17. ♗d2 c5
 18.f3? Unfortunately, a wrong move
 order. White remains in control after
 18. ♘f4! ♖ad8 19.a3 ♘c6 20.f3
 21.exf3 ♘ge5 22. ♘d5 ♗f7 23. ♗e3 b6
 24. ♖fe1± 18... ♘e5 19.a3 ♘bc6 20.
 ♘f4 exf3 21.exf3 ♘d4! This is the dif-
 ference. White lacks just a tempo to
 cover all the squares in his camp, and
 now the black pieces are going to in-
 vade with a devastating effect. 22. ♖fe1
 ♗f7 23. ♘d5 ♘d3 24. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8
 25. ♘f1



25... ♗h5? Instead, 25... ♖e2! is killing.
 For example, 26. ♗e3 ♘xb2 27. ♗xd4
 ♘xd1 and wins. 26. ♗e3! White is back
 into the game. 26... ♘xf3 27. ♖xd3
 ♘xh2+ 28. ♘g1 ♘f3+ 29. ♗xf3? It is
 tempting to keep an extra piece but
 now Black's attack becomes very
 strong. In fact, after 29. ♘f1! Black
 doesn't have anything special. 29...
 ♗xf3 30. ♖d2 ♗e4 31. ♘f4 ♗xg3+ 32.
 ♘f1 ♗f5 33. ♘d5 (see next diagram)
 33... ♗f3+? Surprisingly, Black misses
 an immediate win 33... ♗h3+ since
 34. ♘e2 walks into a checkmate:
 34... ♗g4+ 35. ♘d3 ♗f5+ 36. ♘e2 ♗f1#



Haessel – Porper, after 33. ♘d5

34. ♘e1? A much better try is 34. ♘g1.
 34... ♗h1+ 35. ♘f2 ♗e4 Black misses
 another quick win: 35... ♗h2+ 36. ♘e1
 ♗g1+ 37. ♘e2 ♗g4+ 38. ♘d3 ♗b1+
 39. ♗c2 ♗f5+ winning the queen.
 36. ♘f4 ♗f3+ 37. ♘e1 h5 38. ♖f2 ♗g4
 39. ♘d5 ♗xd5 40. cxd5 ♗e4 41. ♖e2
 ♗h1+ 42. ♘f2?! After 42. ♘d2 ♗xd5+
 43. ♗d3 Black wins another pawn but
 the white king gets to safety. 42... ♖e5
 43. ♗d3 ♗xd5 Black generously offers
 a trade of queens... 44. ♗g6? which
 White declines for some reason.
 44... ♖f5+ Now it's over as White loses
 more material. 45. ♘e1 ♗e4 0-1

NM Alex Yam 1:0 NM Rob Gardner

The most important game of the whole
 tournament that determined the new Al-
 bertsa Closed champion. Rob has played
 well up to a certain point and attained a
 position that looked close to winning. Un-
 fortunately, he lost the thread of the game
 shortly before the time control. The erro-
 neous queen exchange on move 37 al-
 lowed Alex to take over and ultimately
 grind the opponent down.

**Yam, Alex (2278) –
 Gardner, Robert (2173) [B14]**
 2014 Alberta Closed (5), 20.04.2014

1.e4 g6 2.d4 c6 3.c4 d5 4.exd5 cxd5
 5. ♘c3 ♘f6 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7. ♗b3 ♘xc3
 8.bxc3 ♗g7 9. ♘f3 0-0 10. ♗e2 ♘c6
 11.0-0 ♘a5 12. ♗a3 ♗e6 13. ♗g5 f6
 14. ♗f4 ♖c8 15. ♖fe1 ♖f7 16. ♘d2 ♗d5
 17. ♗f1 a6 18. ♖ac1 ♘c4 19. ♗b4 b5
 20.a4 ♗f8 21. ♗b1 bxa4 22. ♘xc4
 ♗xc4 23. ♗xc4 ♖xc4

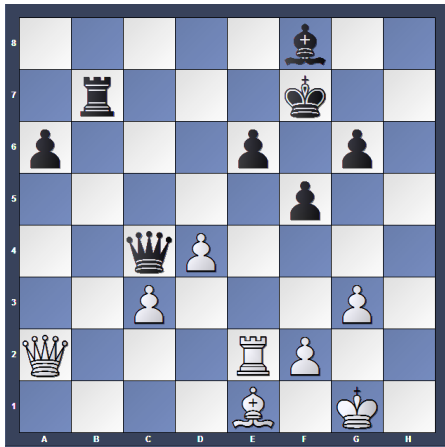


Black has a firm grip on the position
 and a dangerous (extra) passed pawn.
 24. ♗d3 ♗c8 25.g3 e6 26.h4 a3
 27. ♗d2 ♖b7 28.h5 ♘f7 29. ♖e4 f5?!
 Rob has done a good job so far. Un-
 fortunately, over the course of the next
 few moves he gradually loses control
 of the position. Here 29... ♖b2! is
 strong. Black isn't worried about
 30. ♖h4 f5 (only now!) 31.hxg6+ hxg6
 and White doesn't have time to create
 serious threats on the kingside. 30. ♖e2



Yam - Gardner, after 30. ♖e2

30... ♗c6?! Again, 30... ♖b2! is the way
 to go although it's understandable that
 Black didn't like 31.d5 when there is
 but a narrow path towards the win:
 31... ♖e4 32. ♖xe4 fxe4 33. ♗xe4 exd5
 34. ♗xd5+ ♗e6 and the a-pawn de-
 cides. 31. ♖ce1 a2 32. ♖a1 ♖a4 33.
 hxg6+ hxg6 34. ♗e1 ♗d5 35. ♗c2 ♗c4
 36. ♖xa2 ♖xa2 37. ♗xa2 (next diagram)
 The critical moment of the game.
 37... ♗xa2? After the trade of queens
 White obtains a significantly better
 endgame which he duly converts into a
 full point. Black must keep the queens
 on the board 37... ♗c6= even though
 this is a far from obvious decision.
 White's active options will be limited as



Yam –Gardner, after 37. ♖xa2

he will always have to worry about his own king's safety. 38. ♖xa2 ♖b6 39. ♔f1 ♔e7 40. c4 ♔d7 41. c5 ♖c6 42. f4 ♙g7 43. ♙f2 ♔c8 44. ♔e2 ♙f6 45. ♔d3 ♙d8 46. ♙e1 g5 47. ♔c4 ♔d7 48. ♖h2 gxf4 49. gxf4 ♙e7 50. ♙a5 ♖c8 51. ♖h7 ♔e8 52. ♙b6 ♙d8 53. ♖h8+ ♔d7 54. ♙xd8 ♖xd8 55. ♖h7+ ♔c6 56. ♙a7 ♖h8 57. ♖xa6+ ♔d7 58. d5 exd5+ 59. ♔xd5 ♖h1 60. ♙a7+ ♔e8 61. ♔e6 ♖e1+ 62. ♔xf5 ♖c1 63. ♖c7 ♔d8 64. ♖c6 ♔d7 65. ♖d6+ ♔e7 66. ♖d5 ♙g1 67. ♖e5+ ♔f7 68. ♔e4 ♖d1 69. c6 ♖d8 70. ♖c5 ♔e6 71. f5+ ♔f6 72. c7 ♖c8 73. ♖c6+ ♔e7 74. ♔e5 ♔d7 75. ♖c1 ♔e7 76. f6+ ♔f7 77. ♔f5 ♖h8 78. ♔e5 ♖c8 79. ♔d6 1-0

Nicolas Haynes and Aaron Sequillion dominate Alberta Reserves Championship



As usual, the Alberta Reserves section was held alongside the Closed as a 5-round Open Swiss. The tournament attracted a total of 16 players including NM Nicolas Haynes. The final crosstable looks a little unusual as Nic and Aaron scored 4.5/5 finishing 1.5 points ahead of the closest competitors. Their head-to-head encounter was one of the most interesting and entertaining games of the tournament.

Sequillion, Aaron (2198) – Haynes, Nicolas (2273) [B41]
2014 Alberta Reserves (3), 19.04.2014

2014 Alberta Closed Final Crosstable

	Players	CFC	FIDE	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Place
1	NM Robert Gardner	2307	2173	X	½	½	0	0	½	1½	5
2	IM Edward Porper	2497	2438	½	X	½	1	1	½	3½	II
3	NM Gary Ng	2230	2140	½	½	X	1	0	0	2	4
4	FM Dale Haessel	2266	2198	1	0	0	X	0	0	1	6
5	NM Alex Yam	2349	2278	1	0	1	1	X	1	4	I
6	IM Richard Wang	2480	2368	½	½	1	1	0	X	3	III



1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 a6 5. c4 ♖c6 6. ♖c3 ♖c7 7. ♙e3 ♖f6 8. ♙e2 ♙b4 9. ♖xc6 bxc6 10. ♖d4 c5 11. ♖d3 ♙b7 12. f3 d5!? Black opens the position up before either side can complete development. The question is whose pieces are better prepared for the ensuing sharp battle. More circumspect is 12...0-0 13.0-0 ♖f8 keeping d7–d5 in reserve. 13. cxd5 exd5 14. exd5 ♖xd5 15.0-0! ♙xc3 16. bxc3 ♖e5?! Overly ambitious. Black should take care of his king's safety first: 16...0-0. White cannot keep the bishop pair as 17. ♙f2 may be answered by a simple 17... ♖f4 18. ♖c2 ♖xe2+ 19. ♖xe2 ♙d5 when the position is close to equality. 17. ♖fe1! 0-0-0 Extremely risky but the course of the game proves that the risk was justified. Apparently, Black wasn't satisfied with 17... ♖xe3 18. ♙f1 0-0 19. ♖xe3 ♖xe3+ 20. ♖xe3 and the endgame is better for White. 18. ♙xc5 Now Black should be able to hold with precise play. It's hard to believe but White's best is 18. ♙f2 intending 18... ♖xc3 19. ♙f1! ♖xe1 20. ♙xe1 ♖xd3 21. ♙xd3± White will soon get his pawn back, then the bishop pair will tell. 18... ♖xc3 19. ♖c4 ♖xe2+ 20. ♔f1 ♔b8 21. ♖ab1 ♖d5! 22. ♖xa6 Another try is 22. ♖b4 but after 22... ♖he8 23. ♖xe2 ♖xe2 24. ♔xe2 ♖d3+ 25. ♔f2 ♖d2+ Black gets the queens off the board with a likely draw. (See next diagram.)



Haynes – Sequillion, after 22. ♖xa6

22... ♖c3 The most interesting continuation is 22... ♖he8!? Both sides are obligated to find the only moves to hold the balance: 23. ♙d6+ ♔c8 24. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 25. ♖c4+ ♔d7 26. ♖d1

♖c3!! 27. ♖xc3 ♖b5+ 28. ♔g1 ♔e6 29. ♖e3+ ♔f5 30. ♖f4+ ♔g6 31. ♖g3+ ♔h6 32. ♖f4+ with a draw. 23. ♖xb7+ ♖xb7 24. ♙d6+ ♖xd6 25. ♖xd6+ ♖c7 26. ♖b4+ A little surprisingly, White decides to call it an immediate draw. He could have tried 26. ♖xc7+ ♔xc7 27. ♖c1 ♖a8 28. ♖xc3+ ♔d6 29. a3 with a chance to play for a full point without any risk. 26... ♔a8 27. ♖a3+ ♔b8 28. ♖b4+ ♔a8 ½-½

WFM Syeda Parveen wins 2014 Alberta Women's Championship

This year the Women's tournament was also held alongside the Closed in order to determine both Alberta Champions at the same time. WFM Syeda Parveen won convincingly with 4.5/5 defeating all her rivals. Jina Burn finished second scoring 4/5, and Armine Arzumanyan took third with 3/5. Below is one of the most entertaining games of the tournament.

Burn, Jina (1534) – Arzumanyan, Armine (1912) [B06]
Alberta Women's Championship (2)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♙g7 3. ♙c4 e6 4. ♖c3 ♖e7 5. ♖f3 d5 6. ♙b3 c5?! Black opens up the position prematurely. White is better developed and takes



full advantage of it. 7.exd5 ♖xd5 8.♖xd5 exd5 9.dxc5 ♖a5+ 10.c3 0-0 11.0-0 ♖a6 12.♖g5 ♖e8 13.♖xd5 ♖xc5 14.♖b3 ♖c7 15.♖fe1



Black's queenside pieces are not playing, and White quickly develops a crushing attack. 15...♖xe1+ 16.♖xe1 ♖f8 17.♖e5 ♖c5 18.♖xf7+ ♖g7 19.♖c4 ♖d6 20.♖d4 ♖f5 21. ♖xg6+ ♖xf7 22.♖f6+ ♖g8 23.♖h8+ ♖f7 24.♖xh7# 1-0

Brad Willis and Jim Daniluk top Alberta Seniors Championship

By Vlad Rekhson and Vladimir Pechenkin

The 2014 Alberta Seniors championship was held in a new format. FIDE changed their Seniors regulation to two sections of 50+ and 65+ instead of the one 60+ section as it was held before. The Alberta Chess Association decided to sponsor the two section winners towards a trip to Kitchener for the National Championship with \$500 travel award per section.

The 2nd annual provincial competition was held in the Calgary Chess Club on the June 14-15 weekend. Besides the regular prizes and the award of a trip, "Investors Group" supported the competition with an added \$150 for the first place in each section. An addition which made the tournament more attractive to everyone.

In the Over 65 section we had a total of 6 players, but the class of the field was

Bradley Willis. Bradley outrated his second highest rated opponent by more than 300 points, and despite a last round scare against George Stacey who if we wouldn't know any better could be expected to be an underrated junior at 950, Bradley did not have much trouble taking the first place with a perfect score of 4/4. Second place was shared by Frank Kluytmans and Ivan Pivovarov with 3/4.

The Over 50 section had 7 players plus NM Roy Yearwood who stepped in as a house player in round 2. Jim Daniluk was the highest rated player and despite a somewhat nervous game in the last round against Art Milne, Jim managed to take the tournament with a score of 4/5. Second place was hotly contested and in the end Art Milne shared the award with the surprising tournament outsiders Steve Sklenka and Mike Scholz who scored 3/5 each.

A special thanks goes to Frank Kluytmans and Jim Daniluk who helped organize the event, the Alberta Chess Association for sponsoring the travel awards and Investors Group for helping increase the first prize. Additionally, I would like to thank those who travelled from out of town to this event: Bradley Willis from Edmonton, John M. Le Bigot from Lethbridge and Mark Anderson from Montana.

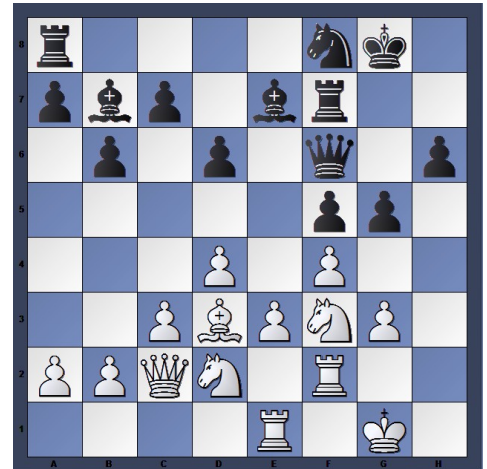
Stacey, George (950) - Willis, Bradley (2035) [A80]

AB Seniors Over 65 (4), 15.06.2014

1.d4 f5 2.♖f4 ♖f6 3.e3 e6 4.♖d2 b6 5.♖d3 ♖b7 6.♖gf3 ♖e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c3 In this setup White usually spends a tempo on h3 creating a retreat square for the dark-squared bishop. 8...♖e4 Black can take advantage of the opponent's move order by 8...♖h5!? picking up the bishop pair. 9.♖c2 g5?! Positionally risky. Safer is 9...d5. 10.♖g3?! White can obtain a long-term positional advantage by tactical means: 10.♖xe4! gxf4 11. ♖ed2 fxe3 12.fxe3 intending e3-e4 next. The exposed black king will remain a key factor for a long time. 10...♖xg3 11.hxg3 ♖e8 Black gets a nice position after 11...g4! 12.♖e1 d5 with a firm grip on the light squares. 12.g4 Immediate 12.e4!? looks strong. 12...♖g6?! Correct is 12...fxg4 as 13. ♖xh7+? ♖g7 14.♖e5 ♖h5! may lead to a quick checkmate along the h-file. 13.♖e5 ♖f6 14.f4 d6 15.♖ef3 h6 16. gxf5 exf5 17.g3? Too unambitious.



White's advantage in development entitles him to play aggressively. Here and later 17.fxg5! hxg5 18.♖h2! opens up lines and threatens to win the f5-pawn. In fact, the computer already gives White a winning advantage. 17...♖d7 18.♖f2 ♖f7 19.♖e1 ♖f8



20.e4? Again, 20.fxg5 hxg5 21.♖h2! is strong. 20...gxf4 21.gxf4 ♖g7+ The tables are turning. Black's attack is surprisingly dangerous. 22.♖g2 ♖xg2+. 22...♖e6! may be even better. 23.♖xg2 ♖g6 24.♖g3 ♖xf4! Decisive. 25.e5 ♖g6+ 26.♖xf4 ♖g5+ 0-1



The winners: Jim Daniluk and Brad Willis
This tournament was originally scheduled on April 26-27 but was later postponed as requested by the organizers. The ACA emphasizes that the original date did not create a conflict with any other event.

South prevails at the 2013 Battle of Alberta

By: Vlad Rekhson

This was the 18th Annual competition which paired the 12 best of Northern AB against the 12 best of the South. After team North won in the past two, the South prevailed in this year's competition despite being the underdogs by an average of 30 CFC points and 60 FIDE.

As captain of team South, my major concern was the first four boards, as we were out-rated by an average of 125 CFC points on those boards. Still, I presumed that even though we had a small rating advantage on the bottom boards, we might be able to extend it and compensate for the top boards.

After the first round of play the match was tied with the score of 6-6.

This was already a good sign for us as in the previous two years the South's hopes were essentially crushed after the first round. The South could be encouraged by the fact that the top four boards were competitive, as the top three boards ended in draws and only yours truly succumbed to the higher rated Belsar Valencia. The point deficit was evened out by our performance on the lower boards.

In the second round, we had a dream start as our boards 9-12 swept through the competition quickly and we took the lead by the score of 11-8. Still, it was far from over as in most of the remaining boards, our positions looked suspicious and we knew that a 12-12 draw was in North's favour as they would get to keep to coveted Battle of AB trophy as the defending champions.

North's "Rocket" Rob Gardner defeated Georgi Kostadinov bringing the score closer, but Aaron Sequillion's bishop blunder ensured us at least a tie. Now all we needed was at least one draw in the remaining three games. Team North captain Micah Hughey managed to convert an endgame with two extra pawns against Brad Booker, becoming his team's only 2-0 winner. That meant that the decision would come down to the top two boards. On board one IM Edward Porper had a better endgame for a long time and eventually Alex couldn't handle the pressure and lost. On board two, IM Richard Wang and Dan Kazmaier were involved in a wild affair. With both kings seemingly under very dangerous attack, somehow Dan managed to outplay his



Kazmaier-Wang move 32

mighty opponent which provided team South with a much needed point, awarding us the victory by the score of 13-11!

The Battle of AB trophy is now proudly displayed at the Calgary Chess Club where it will remain at least until next year's competition. In the competition's history, the rivalry has been extremely close, as each side won exactly 9 events.

I would like to thank both teams for playing in a sportsmanlike manner. A special recognition should go to team South newcomers Diwen Shi and Erik Tam who won their matches with a 2/2 score. Alexey Taranik did a great job running a smooth event and entering all the games as the competition went along. All 24 games can be viewed at:

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

Wang, Richard (2440) -

Kazmaier, Dan (2196) [D05]

2013 Battle of AB (2.1), 07.09.2013

Annotated by Dan Kazmaier

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 b6 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.0-0 d5 6.b3 Bd6 7.Bb2 0-0 8.Ne5 c5 9.Nd2 Nc6 10.a3 Rc8 11.Qf3!?

11.f4 Ne7 12.Ng4 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 g6= is a more natural continuation for both sides; 11.Qe2 Ne7 12.Rfd1 cxd4 13.exd4 Rc7 14.Rac1 Qa8 15.Re1 Qc8 16.c4 Ng6 17.g3 dxc4 18.bxc4 Ba8 19.f3 Rd8 20.Nxc6 hxc6 21.Ne4 Be7 22.h4 Nh5 23.Kf2 Rcd7 24.Rg1 Qb8 25.Qe3 e5 26.Rce1 exd4 27.Qd2 Bd6 28.Nxd6 Qxd6 29.Qg5 Qc6 30.Be4 Qxc4 31.Bxa8 Rxa8 32.Rc1 Qb3

33.Qd2 Qe3+ 34.Qxe3 dxe3+ 35.Ke1 Rd2 36.Bc3 Rad8 0-1 Wang,R (2460)-Porper,E (2494) AB Closed 2013.

11...Qc7 12.Qg3 Ne7 13.Qh3 Ne4 [13...Ng6 14.Ndf3 cxd4 15.Nxc6 hxc6 16.exd4 Qe7 17.Bc1=]

14.f3 Ng5 15.Qh5 f6!?

[15...cxd4! Much stronger, with the following continuations 16.Qxc5 (16.exd4 f6 17.f4 Ne4 18.Qh3 Nf5 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Bc4 Qe7 21.a4 (21.Ng4 b5! 22.Bxb5 Rxc2 23.Rf2 Rxf2 24.Nxf2 Bd5-+) 21...fxe5 22.fxe5 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Rxc4! 24.bxc4 Qc5+ 25.Kh1 Qxc4 26.Qb3 (26.Rf4 Qxc2 27.Ba3 Rd8-+) 26...Ng3+ 27.hxc3 Rxf1+ 28.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 29.Kh2 Qf5-+) 16...Bxe5 17.f4 Bf6 18.Qg3 Nf5 19.Bxf5 exf5 20.Rac1 Rfe8 21.Bxd4 Bxd4 22.exd4 Re2 23.]

16.Ng4 Nf5 17.f4 Ne4

[17...g6? 18.Nxf6+ Rxf6 19.Qxc5 Rf7 20.Rae1 21.]

18.Nf3 c4!

[My opponent thought for 32 minutes on 18. Nf3, so I thought the following continuation was too complicated to play. Instead of pushing the g- and h-pawns, black maintains a comfortable initiative 18...g6! 19.Qh3 h5 20.Nf2 Nxe3 21.dxc5 Bxf4 22.Qxe6+ Kg7 23.cxb6 axb6 24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.Bxe4 Nxf1 26.Rxf1 Bxe4 (26...Rce8? 27.Bxf6+ Rxf6 28.Qxe8-+) 27.Qxe4 Rce8-+]

19.bxc4 dxc4 20.Bxe4 Bxe4 21.c3 Qc6 22.a4 a5 23.Rfe1 Bc2 24.Ba3 Bxa3 25.Rxa3 Nd6

Trying to maintain control over the e4 square. 26.Nf2 Kh8 27.Ra2 Bxa4 28.e4 Qe8 29.Qh3 Bc6

[I had originally intended the following, but my minors are too far from protecting the kingside if the central pawn pushes break though 29...Bb3 30.Rae2 Nb5 31.Re3]

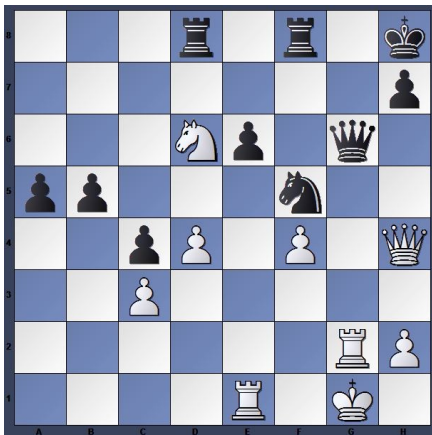
30.Rd2 Qf7 31.e5 Nf5 32.exf6 Bxf3?!= Black avoids favourable complications [32...gxf6 33.d5 Bxd5 34.Rxd5 exd5 35.Qxf5 Rce8 36.Rd1 Qe6 37.Qc2 Qe2] 33.Qxf3

[33.fxg7+ Nxg7 (33...Qxg7 34.Qxf3 Nh4 35.Qg3 Rxf4 36.Rxe6 Qf7 37.Re5 Although Houdini evaluates all continuations as equal, I think most human players would prefer black) 34.Qxf3 Qxf4 35.Qxf4 Rxf4 36.Rb1 Rb8 37.Rdb2=] 33...gxf6 34.Rde2 Rfe8 35.Qh3 Rcd8 36.Ne4 b5!?

[Rerouting the knight to d5 was much stronger 36...Ne7! 37.Qf3 Nd5] 37.g4 Both players are under 5 minutes plus increment

37...Ng7 38.Qh4 Rf8 39.Nc5 Rde8 40.Ne4 Qg6 41.Rg2 f5?

[Instead of forcing the issue, black should push his pawns. In positions such as this the result can change from one tempo. 41...b4! 42.g5 fxg5 43.Rxg5 (43.Nxg5 b3+) 43...Nf5 44.Qh3 Qf7+] 42.Nd6 Rd8 43.gxf5 Nxf5??

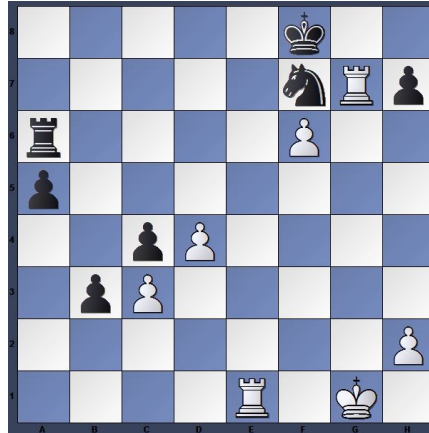


Instantly played and an inward groan as I saw I was dropping the exchange 44.Qxd8! Rxd8 45.Rxg6 Nxd6 46.Rgxe6+- b4 Black's only chances remain in his passed pawns, making it difficult for white to convert.

47.R6e5 Ra8 48.Rd5 Ra6 49.f5?? [49.Ra1! b3 50.Rdxa5 Rxa5 51.Rxa5 Ne4 52.Ra8+ Kg7 53.d5 Nxc3 54.d6 b2 55.Rb8 Nb5! 56.Rxb5 c3 57.d7 c2 58.d8Q c1Q+= Black escapes with a perpetual 59.Kf2 (White escapes with a perpetual 59.Kg2

Qc6+ 60.Kf2 Qxb5 61.Qe7+ Kg6 62.Qe6+ Kh5 63.Qh3+=) 59...Qxf4+ 60.Kg2 Qg4+=; 49.Re6? b3!+ 50.Rexd6 Rxd6 51.Rxd6 a4 The passed pawns are too strong for white's rook] 49...b3 50.f6 Kg8

[50...b2?? 51.Rxd6 Rxd6 52.Re8#] 51.Rg5+ White offers a draw, but black has no reason to accept with his two protected passed pawns 51...Kf8! [51...Kf7 52.Rg7+ Kxf6 53.Rge7] 52.Rg7 Nf7??



Unbelievable! Black self-mates, yet both players miss this playing on increments the past 15 moves. [52...a4 53.Rxh7 Nf7 54.Re7 Rxf6 55.Rb7 a3+] 53.Rxh7? [53.Rg8+ Kxg8 54.Re8#] 53...a4 54.Rh5 a3 55.Rc5 Rxf6??

Black misses his best chance. Although he is down the exchange and pawn, his two passers on the sixth are objectively worth a rook. [55...Nd6+] 56.Rxc4 Ng5 57.Rd1 Rb6?=[

[Passed pawns must be pushed! Black misses his last chance with the following, as he maintains his a-pawn. 57...b2! 58.Rc8+ Kf7 59.Rb8 Nh3+ 60.Kg2 Nf4+ 61.Kg3 Nd3! 62.Rb7+ Kg6 63.h4 (63.Ra7? Nc1+) 63...a2 64.Rxb2 Nxb2 65.Ra1 Ra6+] 58.Ra4 a2 59.Ra1 b2 60.R4xa2 bxa1Q+ 61.Rxa1 Rb2 62.Rf1+ Ke7

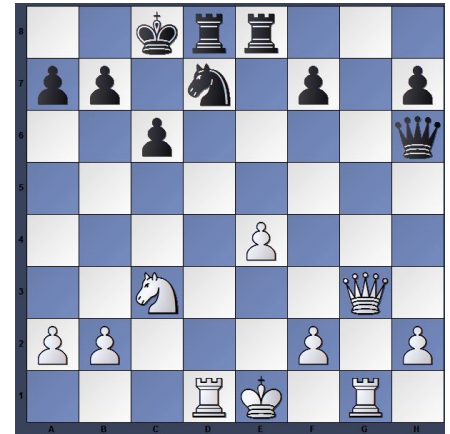
Even though there were numerous blunders, a well-fought battle. ½-½

Kazmaier, Daniel (2196) -

Wang, Richard (2430) [A00]

2013 Battle of AB (2.2), 07.09.2013

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Qb3 dxc4 5.Qxc4 Bg4 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.e4 Bxf3 8.gxf3 e5 9.Be3 Qc7 10.Bh3 Bd6 11.Bxd7+ Nxd7 12.Rg1 exd4 13.Bxd4 Be5 14.f4 Bxd4 15.Qxd4 Qxf4 16.Qxg7 0-0-0 17.Qg3 Qh6 18.Rd1 Rhe8



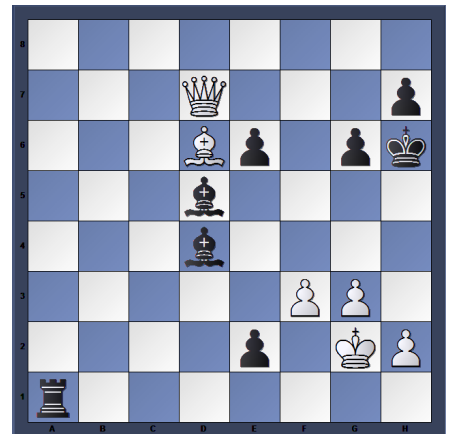
19.Ke2 f5 20.Qe3 f4 21.Qxa7 Qxh2 22.Rg7 f3+ 23.Kd3 Qh6 24.Rdg1 Qd6+ 25.Kc2 Re7 26.Rxe7 Qxe7 27.b4 Ne5 28.b5 Qc7 29.b6 Qb8 30.Rg7 Nd7 31.Rxh7 Qd6 32.a4 Rg8 33.a5 Rg2 34.Rh8+ Nf8 35.Rxf8+ 1-0

Kostadinov, Georgi (2116) -

Gardner, Robert (2182) [A00]

2013 Battle of Alberta (1.5), 07.09.2013

1.d4 f6 2.c4 e6 3.f3 b6 4.g3 f6 5.c3 c5 6.f2 f7 7.e3 cxd4 8.exd4 d5 9.0-0 e7 10.f5 0-0 11.f3 c6 12.f4 d8 13.f4 a5 14.f4 a6 15.f4 c1 dxc4 16.f4 xc4 17.f4 b3 b5 18.a4 f4 19.f4 a2 bxa4 20.f4 xa4 f4 e4 21.f4 e4 dxe4 22.f4 c5 f4 d5 23.f4 xa6 f4 xb2 24.f4 b1 f4 a2 25.f4 f1 f4 g5 26.f4 b8 f4 e7 27.f4 xf8+ f4 xf8 28.f4 d7+ f4 g8 29.f4 c1 g6 30.f4 c8+ f4 g7 31.f4 e5+ f6 32.f4 xf6 f4 xf6 33.f4 c7 f4 xc7 34.f4 xc7 f4 xd4 35.f4 b5 f4 a1+ 36.f4 g2 e3+ 37.f4 e2 38.f4 d7+ f4 h6 39.f4 d6



36...f4? [39...f4g1+ 40.f4h3 e1f4 41.f4f8+ f4g5 and wins] 40.f4f8+ f4g5 41.h4+? [41.f4d8] f4f5 42.g4+ f4f4 43.f4h6+ g5 44.f4xg5+ f4e5 45.f4d8 e1f4+ 46.f4g3 f4f2+? [46...f4xf3!] 47.f4xf2 f4d3+ 48.f4e3 f4b7 49.f4f6# 1-0

Calgary Towers win the 2013 WBX Team Championship

Report written by Vlad Rekhson
 Edited by Vladimir Pechenkin

The WBX Team tournament can also be called Alberta's amateur team competition, as it works in the same format as some other similar events, where teams are formed with the requirement of not surpassing a certain average rating threshold. The competition which is now traditional in our province and stands for "Weekend Before Christmas" often attracts some of the best players around as they play with regular club players. This year the regulations were the same as last year, teams of three players, plus one substitute, would have to be formed with the average rating not exceeding 2000. This rule has one important exception, teams that have already been formed and registered are not affected by any rating changes afterwards. This sometimes creates the attraction of trying to get some nicely underrated players early on. My team this year was the "Calgary Towers." On board 1 we had National Master Dan Kazmaier, I was on board 2, and that meant that we needed someone rated below 1445 to be our board 3. This type of strategy can be quite risky as I found out several years ago, when I tried to do the same thing, only to have our team fail miserably, since our board 3 was just overmatched. This time, however, everything worked like magic. A talented Calgary junior Chen Wu joined our team with a rating of 1385. However, only a week after our official registration he gained an astounding 356 points as he went up all the way to 1741! Going into the tournament our team's average was 2090 which was almost 100 points ahead of the second highest ranked team. Still, even though we were the clear favourites, we knew that our victory was far from certain.

The tournament itself had a total of 10 teams with average ratings ranging from 2090 to 1817. Due to an increase in interest from some lower rated players, organizer Terry Seehagen introduced a B section, where the average didn't exceed 1500.

On day 1 of play we had 3 tough rounds. With 6.5 points the surprise leader was "The Fellowship of the King." This team was the lowest ranked of all the ten teams but it was clear that with heavily underrated boards 2 and 3 (David and Michael

Ludwig) and steady leadership of NM Rob Gardner on board 1, they were a serious threat to any other team. Second place was shared by my team and "Fischer Fear" (Kim Nguyen, Adam Harris, Pat Porter and sub Trevor Robertson) with 6 points each. "Fischer Fear" defeated us in round 2 clearly indicating their intentions to fight for the top spot. The penultimate round 4 was going to be crucial. We were facing "The Fellowship of the King" needing to defeat them in order to likely reclaim the top flight, while "Fischer Fear" was facing "Forever Young" (FM Vladimir Pechenkin, Joseph Young and Nayef Daher) who needed a big win in order to join the fight for first place. This round was extremely successful for us, as Dan Kazmaier, who did not have a very successful event, pulled off a crunch time victory, against Rob Gardner, while Chen and I won our games as well, giving us a lead of 2 clear points over the second ranked "Forever Young" who defeated "Fischer Fear" by a score of 2-1.

In the last round we were facing team "Forever Young" and we knew that 1 point will guarantee us a clear first. Situations like this can often lead to difficult outcomes and from the get go it appeared like our task was not going to be easy.



The top match in the last round

Nayef opened up Chen's King and it looked like the youngster was about to be checkmated. Fortunately, Nayef made an inaccuracy, which allowed Chen to force a draw, meaning that we only needed half a point to guarantee first place. At that point FM Pechenkin defeated NM Kazmaier but I was able to defeat Joseph Young which meant that we won first with 10.5/15 points!

The importance of the previous round became even more apparent since "The Fellowship of the King" defeated "A Queen and Two Knights" (Rick Pedersen, Arnold McKay and Armine Arzumanyan) by a perfect 3-0. Nevertheless, the losing team can be somewhat consoled by the fact that they were voted to have the best name!

"Fischer Fear" won 2-1 against team: "10101001010000110" (IM Richard Wang, Chris White, Joel Stainer). This allowed them to tie for third with "Forever Young." Incidentally, there was no doubt that IM Wang's team had the most complicated name, as apparently it means the square kilometres of the triangle are formed by the team's participants translated into binary!

Best board prizes were awarded as well. The top two players of the event: IM Richard Wang and FM Vladimir Pechenkin shared first on board 1 with 4/5 each. Unfortunately, the two didn't have a chance to play each other. I won the best on board 2 prize with 5/5, while Chen Wu, Michael Ludwig and Nayef Daher shared the best on board 3 award with 3.5/5 each.

The B section of the event had two teams and they played 3 rounds as each member of a team played against an opposing team player once. The team that consisted of Mark Nie, Anthony-Dwight Graham and Julian Lau defeated a team of Terry Seehagen, Bismarck Almanza and William Bradford by a score of 5-4.

The tournament is a great way to end the chess year in Alberta, as it is often more fun to play for a team. A special thanks has to be given to tournament Organizer and Director Terry Seehagen who spent days trying to ensure that everyone will be in a competitive team and that the tournament will go as smoothly as possible.

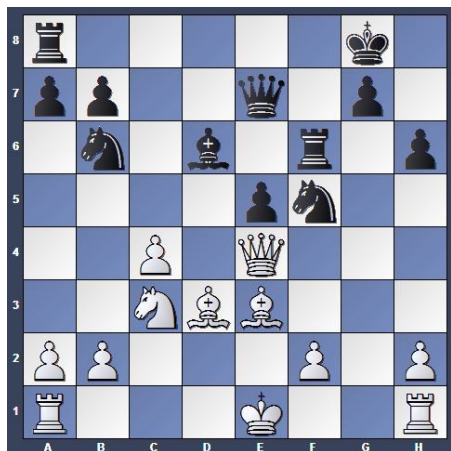
Kazmaier, Daniel - Gardner, Rob [A45]
 WBX Tournament 2013 (4), 15.12.2013



1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 c5 4.e5 h6 5.Bc1 Nd5 6.e4 Nb6 7.Nf3 cxd4 8.Qxd4 Nc6 9.Qe4 d5 10.exd6 Bxd6 11.Be3 Qe7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.g4 e5 14.g5 f5 15.gxf6 Rxf6 16.Nh4 Nd4 17.Bd3 Bf5 18.Nxf5 Nxf5

The decisive mistake that White ruthlessly punishes. 24.Rxf6! exf6 25.d4 Qe6 26.Rf1 Rc3 27.Nxf6+ Qxf6 28.Rxf6 Rxb3 29.h3 a4 30.e5 dxe5 31.dxe5 1-0

12. ♖h5? Tempting but incorrect. Instead, a prosaic 12. ♖xh8 leads to a decisive material advantage for White. 12... ♗7f6! The only but sufficient response that White underestimated. Now the game suddenly ends in a draw. 13. ♗fd6+ ♔d8 14. ♗f7+ ♕e8 15. ♗fd6+ Neither side can avoid repetition. 1/2-1/2

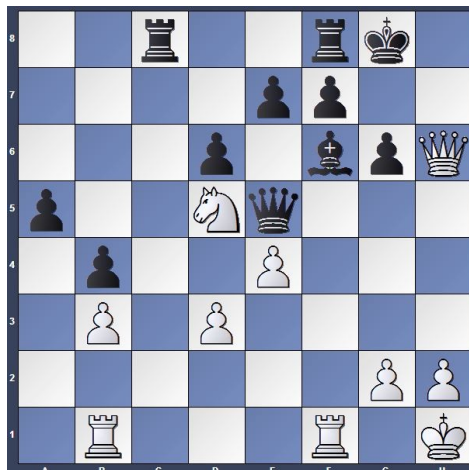


19.Bxb6 Bb4 20.Be3 Bxc3+ 21.bxc3 Nxe3 22.fx3 Qa3 23.Rg1 Qxc3+ 24.Ke2 Qb2+ 25.Bc2 Raf8 26.Rxg7+ 1-0

Nguyen, Kim - Wang, Richard [B70]
WBX Tournament 2013 (5), 15.12.2013



1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Nb3 d6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Kh1 Rc8 11.f4 Na5 12.f5 Bc4 13.Bd3 b5 14.Qd2 b4 15.Ne2 Bxd3 16.cxd3 Nxb3 17.axb3 a5 18.fxg6 hxg6 19.Nf4 Qc7 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Nd5 Qc2 22.Qh6 Qxb2 23.Rab1 Qe5?



The winners

Daher, Nayef - Wu, Chenxi [B50]
WBX Tournament 2013 (5), 15.12.2013



Chenxi Wu

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3.b4 ♗d7 4.bxc5 ♗xc5 5. ♗c3 ♗f6 6.e5 dxe5 7. ♗xe5 ♖c7 8.d4 ♗cd7 9. ♗b5 ♖d8 10. ♕f4 ♗d5 11. ♗xf7! ♖b6



Team final standings	
Team 1 Calgary Towers 10.5	
Bd 1	NM Daniel Kazmaier 2
Bd 2	NM Vlad Rekhson 5 Best bd. 2
Bd 3	Chenxi Wu 3.5 Tied best bd. 3
Team 2 Fellowship of the King 9.5	
Bd 1	NM Rob Gardner 3
Bd 2	David Ludwig 3
Bd 3	Michael Ludwig 3.5 Tied best bd. 3
Team 3/4 Fischer Fear 8.5	
Bd 1	Kim Nguyen 3
Bd 2	Adam Harris 3
Bd 3	Patrick Porter 1.5
sub Trevor Robertson 1	
Team 3/4 Forever Young 8.5	
Bd 1	FM Vladimir Pechenkin 4 Tied best bd. 1
Bd 2	Joseph Young 1
Bd 3	Nayef Daher 3.5 Tied best bd. 3
Team 5/6 Sponganators 7.5	
Bd 1	NM Nicolas Haynes 2.5
Bd 2	Dante Briones 3
Bd 3	George Sponga 2
sub Stuart Riesen 0	
Team 5/6 10101001010000110 7.5	
Bd 1	IM Richard Wang 4 Tied best bd. 1
Bd 2	Chris White 0.5
Bd 3	Joel Stainer 3
Team 7 Dean's List 6.5	
Bd 1	NM Micah Hughey 2
Bd 2	Bradley J. Willis 1
Bd 3	Tim Dean 2.5
sub Leah Hughey 1	
Team 8 Edmonton U_Knighted 6	
Bd 1	David Miller 1.5
Bd 2	Mike Zeggelaar 2
Bd 3	Lenard Grossmann 2.5
Team 9 Queen and Two Knights 5.5	
Bd 1	Rick Pedersen 1.5
Bd 2	Arnold McKay 1.5
Bd 3	Armine Arzumanyan 2.5
Team 10 The Road Warriors 5	
Bd 1	Aaron Sequillion 1.5
Bd 2	Ali Razzaq 2.5
Bd 3	Ron Erikson 0
sub Tristan Tran-Ly 1	
sub Terry Seehagen 0	
sub Anthony-Dwight Graham 0	



2013 AB Junior Championship

By: Vlad Rekhson

The provincial junior competition was between players who were born after January 1, 1994. To make for best playing conditions, the competition took place at the Delta Bow Valley Hotel in downtown Calgary.

The competition included 5 different sections, the Championship, Open, Girls Under 1300 and Under 800. The Championship section was the main event as it was a six player Round-Robin with the best junior players in the province among the participants. The qualification process allowed for four spots according to rating, as well spots for the qualifiers from the Edmonton and Calgary Regional events. Current Canadian Jr. Champion, IM Richard Wang was the event's headliner with his astronomical 2476 rating. Calgarian Diwen Shi made a considerable improvement over the past year and he was the second seed. 2011 champion David Miller who is formerly from Grande-Prairie and currently from Edmonton was the third player rated over 2000 in this event. Richard's older brother, Harris Wang rounded up the rating qualifiers. The Edmonton Jr. Champion David Yao and the Calgary Jr. Champion Patrick Angelo Tolentino were

the two lowest ranked players but that did not mean that they were going to let their opponents run them over. In the first round we were almost set for two upsets as Richard entered a drawn rook and pawn vs. rook endgame against his brother, but eventually Harris blundered and lost. Patrick was up an exchange against the much higher rated Diwen, who also was in a bad time pressure, but when the dust settled, Diwen managed to come away with the win. Round 2 finished surprisingly quickly as no game lasted longer than 20 moves (the other ones being 13 and 11!) with the 2000+ players defeating those rated lower. Round 3 was more competitive. While Richard Wang won quickly against David Yao, Harris Wang against Patrick Tolentino was a pretty wild affair which eventually finished with Harris coming out on top. Diwen Shi and David Miller was the first all 2000+ game of the event. It was an interesting game that finished with a three-fold repetition, as both players risked worsening their position otherwise. In round 4 we had the battle between the top two players in the tournament. Diwen Shi obtained a fairly significant looking advantage against his International Master opponent, but a timely draw offer and perhaps too much deference to the title assisted Richard with drawing the game and maintaining the tournament lead. Round 4

also saw the biggest upset of the event as Patrick Angelo Tolentino gave his mother a nice birthday present by defeating David Miller. Despite his loss, David still had a theoretical chance to tie for first as he entered the last round knowing that he had to play against Richard Wang. Despite being black, David went for a sharp Sicilian line, no doubt inspired by some previous successes that he had in his battles versus Richard. This time however, there was no upset as Richard managed to stave off the attack and win decisive material. The victory secured IM Richard Wang first place in the tournament with a final score of 4.5/5. He will now receive \$1000 towards travel for the 2014 Canadian Junior Championship.

Diwen Shi won against Harris Wang and with that secured an impressive second with 4/5. The game between Patrick Angelo Tolentino and David Yao ended in a draw which ensured that no player had zero points.

The Open section of the competition had a total of 9 players all of whom seemed to be quite capable players. It seemed like the majority of players in the Open was clearly underrated. Andre Angelo Tolentino won the tournament with 4.5/5. The second place was shared by Tamir Bulga, Ian Zhao and Chen Wu with 3.5/5 each. A play-off ensued in order to break the tie. After the play-off Tamir took second, Ian won third and Chen Wu finished in fourth place.

The Girls section included 6 players. The format was a little bit different, as we were supposed to have 7 rounds in the event. First the girls played a Round-Robin which was then followed by two game matches for 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 places. Sydney Mah from Edmonton finished with a perfect 5/5 after the Round-Robin portion, but had to go into extra games to defeat Shairah Munoz with a 3-1 head to head score. Third place was taken by Chantel Bustos.

The Under 1300 section had ten players. Bryan Ma who despite his 1000 rating is probably playing at approximately 1500 level won the event with 6.5/7. Andrew Xu won second place with 6/7 ahead of



Quirck Migrino who scored 5/7.

The Under 800 section featured 8 players who have recently picked up the game. Paul (Zhiquan) Wang who just recently turned seven scored a perfect 7/7 (the only perfect score of the tournament). Zehan Li finished second with 6/7 ahead of Ethan Shi (4.5/7) who entered his first ever event.

I would like to thank the head organizer Paul Gagne, Angelo Tolentino, Girindhar Koneru and other people who made this event possible.

Shi, Diwen - Miller, David [B90]

Alberta Junior Chess Championship (3),
09.11.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Qd2 b5 8...Nbd7 9.f3 b5 Transposing to the game; 8...Be7 9.f3 0-0 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 with a slightly more comfortable position for White. 9.f3 Nbd7 10.a4 A forcing continuation. 10...b4 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb6 13.Bxb6 Qxb6 14.a5 Qb7 15.Bc4 Be7 16.0-0 This doesn't ruin the game, but Ra4 would have been better, with at least a draw. 16...0-0 17.Ra4 Rfb8! A new idea. 18.Re1?!

Nc1! with the initiative is more accurate. After Re1 White begins experiencing problems.

18...Nd7=

Suddenly, Black's position comes alive.

19. f4 fails to 19... Bf6, with threats against b2 (20. f5 e4!). Nc5 is also threatened, with Nxc5 dxc5 d6 Qd7! winning the pawn.

19.Raa1?!

After 40 minutes of thought, leaving just minutes on White's clock. The point is, after 19... Nc5 20. Nxc5 dxc5 21. d6 Qd7 Black is no longer attacking a4, and after Rad1 Rad8 dxe7! wins.

19...Rc8

Preparing Nc5. [19...Nc5 20.Nxc5 dxc5 21.d6 Qd7 22.Rad1 Rd8 23.dxe7 Qxd2 24.Rxd2 Rxd2 25.Rxe5]

20.Bd3 Nc5 21.Nxc5 Rxc5 22.Re4

A surprising resource in time trouble.

22...Rxa5?

A mistake. Better would have been Rb8 or b3 with a slight initiative. Now, White consolidates easily.

23.Rxa5 Qb6+ 24.Kf1

Forced.

24...Qxa5 25.Rxb4 Bd8

The best move. Retreating the queen would have given White good chances to win the resulting endgame. [25...Qc7 26.f4 Bf6 27.g3 g6 28.fxe5 Bxe5 29.Kg2f]

26.c3±

Consolidating.

...26...Bb6

With the threat of Qc5, exploiting the dark squares. Black has a continuing initiative, but in the case of a queen exchange, White would be better.

27.Rc4 Rb8

[27...Qa1+? 28.Qe1 Qxb2 29.Rb4! Wins.]

28.b4

Both players are very low on time by this point, White with about a minute and Black with about 10.

28...Qa1+ 29.Qe1 Qa2

[29...Qxe1+? Throwing away the initiative. 30.Kxe1 a5 31.Rc6 axb4 32.cxb4 Bd4 33.Rxd6 Bc3+ 34.Ke2 Bxb4 35.Rd7 White is fine.]

30.Qe2 Qa1+ 31.Qe1 Qa2 32.Qe2 Qa1+ 33.Qe1

The game was drawn here, in a time scramble. Black still would maintain an easier position to play after Qa3! and a5, although it is objectively slightly better for White. ½-½



2014 Red Deer Open

This was the second edition of the event established in 2013. As opposed to the inaugural tournament scheduled for January, the 2014 Red Deer Open was held in May. A total of 14 players took part in a 5-round Open Swiss that spanned the week-end of May 17-18.

The first place was shared by Louis Cheng and FM Vladimir Pechenkin with a result of 4/5. David Miller took clear third even though he was very close to winning the tournament outright.

The following game between the winners may serve as a textbook example devoted to the topic "Advantage in Space".

Pechenkin, Vladimir (2312) – Cheng, Louis (1866) [A24] Red Deer Open (2), 17.05.2014

1.c4 ♖f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.♜c3 0-0 5.d3 d6 6.e4 c6 7.♞ge2 e5 8.0-0 ♗e6 9.h3 ♖c8 10.♙h2 ♗d8 11.f4 ♞e8 12.♗e3 ♞a6 13.♖c1 ♗d7 14.b3 ♞ac7 15.d4 f6 16.d5 ♗f7 17.f5 g5 18.♗f3 c5 19.h4 h6 20.a3 ♗db8 21.b4 b6 22.♖b1 White has conquered more space than the Roman Empire but this doesn't imply an automatic win. Black is hoping to build a fortress across the whole board. 22...♗f8 23.♜c1 ♖b7 24.♞d3 What's important is that White has enough pieces to cover all the squares in his camp. On the other hand, Black has difficulties finding meaningful employment for his own pieces. Therefore, White's motto is "No trades!" 24...♖ab8 25.♖f2 a5 It is interesting to follow Black's dark-squared bishop. For the time being it's by far the worst piece on the board... 26. ♖fb2.



26...axb4 The first exchange of the

game. 27.axb4 ♞a6 28.♖d2 ♙h7 29.♗d1! White's allegedly "bad" bishop is about to become Black's nightmare. 29...♞g7 30.hxg5 fxc5 31.♗a4 ♖d8 32.bxc5 It is time to cash in. 32...♞xc5 33.♗xc5 dxc5 34.♞xe5 ♗d6 35.♞c6 ♖f6 Now, all of a sudden, Black's dark-squared bishop is his best piece! It is so strong that White prefers eliminating it rather than taking an exchange. 36.♞b5 ♗e5 37.♞xe5 ♖xe5 38.♗c2 A slight inaccuracy. 38. ♖c3! nips the opponent's counterplay in the bud as 38...♖xe4 loses immediately to 39.♖e1 ♖g4 40.♗d1 ♖xf5 41.♗c2. 38...♞h5 39.♖c3 Now Black can prolong the game. 39...♞f6 40.♖xe5 ♞g4+ 41.♙g1 ♞xe5 42.♞d6 ♖a7 43.♖xb6 ♖xb6 44.♖xb6 ♖a2 45.♞xf7 ♞f3+ 46.♙f2 ♞d4 47.♞e5 ♖xc2+ 48.♙e3 ♖c3+ 49.♙d2 ♖xg3 50.♖b7+ ♙g8 51.f6 ♞f3+ 52.♞xf3 ♖xf3 53.e5 ♖f4 54.d6 ♖xc4 55.♖g7+ ♙h8 56.d7 ♖d4+ 57.♙c3 1-0

The most interesting game of the tournament was the following see-saw battle.

Miller, David (2012) – Pechenkin, Vladimir (2312) [C11] Red Deer Open (4), 18.05.2014

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♞c3 ♞f6 4.e5 ♞fd7 5.♞ce2 The Shirov–Anand variation of the Classical French. Black must play energetically in order to avoid being suffocated. 5...c5 6.f4 ♞c6 7.c3 ♖b6 8.♞f3 f6 9.a3 ♗e7 10.h4 0-0 11.♞eg1? This regrouping is too slow. It leads to a position from the French Tarrasch but White is down two tempi. The official main line is 11.♖h3 a5 etc. 11...cxd4 12.cxd4 fxe5 13.fxe5



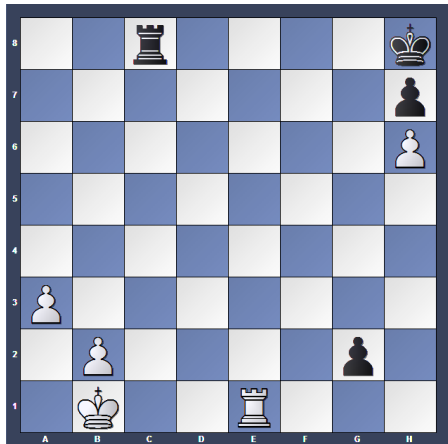
13...♞dxe5! A typical piece sacrifice in this line freeing Black's game. 14.dxe5

♞xe5 15.♖e2 It's hard to say which move is best. 15.♖d4? is no good in view of 15...♖xf3 16.♖xb6 ♖xf1+ 17.♙xf1 axb6+. The computer suggests 15.♗e2 at first but after 15...♞g4 16.♞h3 ♖c7 17.♖d4 ♖g3+ 18.♙f1 e5! 19.♖xd5+ ♙h8 Black's attack is very dangerous.



15...♞g4 16.♞h3 ♗d6 Black should look for improvement here as now White manages to untangle and equalize. 17.♖b5! Correctly seeking a trade of queens. 17...♖c7 Another line is 17...♗g3+ 18.♙d1 ♖xb5 19.♗xb5 e5 letting the queens off the board. After 20.♗d2 e4 21.♞d4 ♗e5 the position is hard to evaluate, especially over the board. 18.♗d2 ♗d7 19.♖b3 ♗g3+ A good alternative is 19...♖ac8!? 20.♖c1 ♗c5 maintaining the tension. Black still has full compensation for the sacrificed material but no more than that. 20.♙d1 e5? Played in the spirit of the position but it doesn't work tactically. 21.♞fg5! The refutation. 21.♖xd5+? ♙h8 is in Black's favor, e.g., 22.♖c1 ♖d8 23.♗c4 ♞f6 24.♖xb7 e4 25.♞fg5 e3 etc. 21...e4? Loses but the alternatives are hardly inspiring. 22.♖xd5+? For some reason both players missed the simple 22.♞xe4+- 22...♙h8 23.♖c1 ♗c6? Black has an amazing resource 23...♖b6!! turning the tables once again. Here is a nice sample line: 24.♖xd7? (correct is 24.♖c2 with a messy position) 24...♖ad8 25.♖a4 ♖xf1+ 26.♖xf1 ♖xd2+ 27.♙xd2 ♖e3+ 28.♙c2 ♖d3# 24.♖xe4 ♗xe4 25.♖xc7 ♗xc7 26.♞xe4 White's material advantage should tell as soon as his restores the coordination of his pieces. Both opponents were short on time here, which gave Black additional practical chances. 26...♖ad8 27.♙c1 ♖d4 28.♞c3 ♞f2 29.♞xf2 ♖xf2 30.♗e3? This is what Black was hoping for. 30.♗e1! and there are no more tricks.

30...♙f4 31.♙xf4 ♖dx4 32.♙d3 ♖xg2
 33.♙e4 ♖gg4 34.♙d1 g6 35.h5 This
 should lead to a quick draw. The way to
 play for a win is 35.♙xb7 but it's
 clearly double-edged. 35...♖xe4
 36.♙xe4 ♖xe4 37.h6 ♖c4+ 37...♙g8
 38.♙d8+ ♙f7 39.♖h8 g5 40.♖xh7+ ♙
 g6 41.♖xb7 ♙xh6 42.♖xa7 g4 should
 also be drawn. 38.♙b1 ♖c8 39.♙d7 g5
 39...♖b8 looks very passive but it is
 also sufficient for a draw without any
 drama. 40.♖xb7 g4 41.♖xa7 g3
 42.♖e7 g2 43.♖e1



43...♖f8? Black misses an amazing
 43...♖c1+!! 44.♙xc1 g1♙ 45.♖xg1
 stalemate! 44.♙c2? This also looks
 natural but allows Black to escape.
 Surprisingly, the correct move is 44.♙
 a2 as White gets an extra tempo to
 push the a-pawn. For example, 44...♙
 g8 45.♖g1 ♖f2 46.a4 ♙f7 47.a5 ♙e7
 48.a6 ♖f6 49.a7 ♖a6+ 50.♙b1 ♖xa7
 51.♖xg2 with a likely win. 44...♖f2+
 45.♙c3 ♙g8 46.♖g1 ♙f7 47.b4 ♙e6
 48.♙d4 ♙d6 White cannot make pro-
 gress. 49.♙e3 ♖a2 50.a4 ♖xa4 51.
 ♖xg2 ♖xb4 52.♖g7 ♖h4 53.♖xh7 ♙e6
 54.♖a7 ♙f6 ½-½

2014 Fort McMurray Open

The second edition of the event that was inaugurated last summer was just as good as the first one. The head organizer Jina Burn along with a number of volunteers once again has done a tremendous job in putting together what may well be the most successfully organized Open Swiss tournament in Alberta.

An impressive line of sponsors guaranteed a prize fund that is well and beyond what is typically seen at a regular local event. The playing hall was spacious, secluded and well lit creating a perfect atmosphere for playing chess. All pre-registered par-



Playing hall at the Fort McMurray Open during round 2

ticipants received a complimentary lunch on both Saturday and Sunday, which essentially solved the usual problem of where to grab a snack in between the rounds. A welcome chess night out party at a local restaurant on Friday night was a pleasant addition to the agenda.

The course of the tournament was quite surprising as all rating favorites kept on losing points. I don't think that anybody could have predicted that the leaders before the last round would be Diwen Shi and Aaron Sequillion. Both of them had 3.5/4 and their head-to-head encounter in the last round could have produced a clear winner. However, the game ended in a quick draw, which allowed three other players (IM Edward Porper, FM Vladimir Pechenkin and David Miller) to catch the leaders and to get a share of the first place.

The cumulative tie-breaker had to be invoked to determine the name of the winner to be engraved on the cup, which slightly favored Diwen Shi. It was not the best tie-breaker to use in this particular situation but the tournament rules were set in advance and had to be obeyed. Besides, Diwen must have taken it into account when determining his strategy for the last game. I'd say that the most impressive performance was demonstrated by David Miller who scored 2/3 against the top three rating favorites and made it look easy. Overall, however, the defending champion IM Edward Porper probably deserved the title the most since his Solkoff (the next tie-breaker on the list) was by far the highest of the five. Both Edward and David fell behind Diwen in terms of the cumulative score because they drew each other in round 3.



The organizer Jina Burn and her son Johnny (right) along with sponsors from APEGGA

That draw ultimately decided the winner of the tournament and showed why the cumulative score may not be the right tie-breaker sometimes. In any case, congratulations to Diwen Shi on what is probably his biggest tournament success so far! Below are the best games of the event by David and Diwen, Rob Gardner being on the receiving side on both occasions.

Miller, David (2027) – Gardner, Robert (2164) [B08]
Fort McMurray Open (5), 06.07.2014

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.♟c3 d6 4.♙e2 c6 5.♜f3 ♜f6 6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 b5 8.a3 ♚c7 9.♙g5 h6 10.♙e3 ♜bd7 11.♚c1 ♜h7 12.♜d2 a6 13.f4 ♙b7 14.e5 ♜d5 15.♜xd5 cxd5 16.♜f3 ♜b6 17.b3



17...f6?! Black's play on the queenside ran into a dead end so he tries to undermine White's position in the center.

18.f5! A spectacular (and fully sound) pawn sacrifice. 18...gxf5? Relatively best is 18...fxe5 but Black's position is no fun after 19.fxg6+ ♔xg6 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.♜xe5+! 19.e6! ♙c8 20.♜h4 ♙xe6 21.♙d3 ♚h8 22.♚e1! ♙f7 23.♜xf5 ♙g6 24.♚h4 h5?



24...♔g8 avoids an immediate disaster but Black's position remains desperate. 25.♚hx5+! ♙hx5 26.♜xe7+ 1-0



David Miller during round 4

The following game is a good example of how neglecting the basic opening principles can lead to a quick catastrophe.

Shi, Diwen (1934) – Gardner, Robert (2164) [B07]
Fort McMurray Open (3), 05.07.2014
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♜f6 3.♟c3 g6 4.f3 c6



5.♙e3 ♜bd7 6.♚d2 e5 7.0-0-0 ♚e7?! 8.h4 h5 9.♔b1 a6 10.♜h3 b5 11.♜g5 b4? 12.♜a4 exd4 13.♙xd4 c5 14.♙e3



Black hasn't made an obvious mistake so far. However, his treatment of the opening contradicts the basic principles so much that his position is already close to being lost. Moreover, White has a wide choice of good continuations. For example, 14.♙c4 cxd4 15.♙xf7+ ♚xf7 16.♜xf7 ♔xf7 17.♚xd4 with a large positional and material advantage. 14...♙b7 15.♙f4 ♙c6 16.♙c4! The game is essentially over. 16...♙xa4 17.♜xf7 d5 18.♜d6+ ♔d8 19.♙xd5 ♚a7 20.♜f7+ ♔e8 21.♙d6 ♚xf7 22.♙xf7+ ♔xf7 23.e5 ♜e8 24.e6+ ♔xe6 25.♚he1+ ♔f7 26.♚d5+ ♔g7 27.♚xe8 ♙xd6 28.♚xh8 ♔xh8 29.♚xd6 ♔g7 30.♚e7+ ♔h6 31.♙d6 1-0

The ACA thanks Suncor Energy, APEGA, the Bouchier Group, Nexen, Metalcare, La Prairie Crane, ABG Groundkeeping, Merit Hotel & Suites, Campbell's Music, Pantry, Chartwells, SWP video, Reg. Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Fish Place, Yogen Frusz and Pizza Hut for sponsoring the event.



Ico van den Born (Nexen) along with four winners (except the champion Diwen Shi)



IM Richard Wang and NM Nicolas Haynes finish first at the 2013 Alberta Open

Report by Vlad Rekhson

The 2013 Alberta Open Championship was held at the Edmonton Chess Club on its traditional time of the Thanksgiving Weekend (October 12-14). A total of 40 players of all levels competed for prizes and the qualification spot for the 2014 AB Championship. The pre-tournament favourite was IM Richard Wang; however, Richard was coming off a couple of less than stellar performances at the World Junior and the Battle of AB, so he certainly had something to prove in this event. Several other masters took part in the competition. They included the Calgarians Dan Kazmaier, FM Dale Haessel and me, as well as Edmontonians Nic Haynes, Micah Hughey (who was returning after a year long hiatus from chess) and the new entrant into the 2200+ crowd Aaron Sequillion. One more great addition to the competition was Women's International Master Agnieszka Matras-Clement, who was visiting Edmonton during the competition.

Day one did not have any major upsets as in general it was business as usual for the top players during the first two rounds. The most notable upsets were draws by top junior Diwen Shi against Arnold McKay and draw between Micah Hughey and George Bukowski.

Day two was more exciting as far as upsets were concerned, even though most of the top players remained on top. It was a dark day for FM Dale Haessel who first lost to Aaron Sequillion and then followed it up with being on the wrong side of a 400 point upset at the hands of Dante Briones. Unfortunately, Dale's trouble didn't end there as in round 5 he lost to Joseph Young for a 500 point upset, before withdrawing. Those who know Dale, will be well aware of the fact that Dale can easily have a horrible performance and then follow it up with a tremendous performance only a month or two later, so we all better watch out. After 4 rounds of play the surprising leader was Aaron Sequillion from Edmonton who had a perfect score. Second was shared by IM Richard Wang and National Master Dan Kazmaier with 3.5/4. In round 4, Dan had a nice looking advantage against Richard, but the International Master salvaged a draw. A total of 7 play-

ers had 3/4, meaning that the tournament was far from being decided.

In the penultimate round, Aaron Sequillion was outplayed by Richard Wang, while Nic Haynes proved that having some time off chess is not necessarily bad for his game, as he defeated Dan Kazmaier. This meant that going into the final round, Richard took the lead with 4.5/5 ahead of Aaron, Nic and Agnieszka. Each of the pursuers had 4/5. Richard wanted to guarantee at least a share of first, and he offered a quick draw to Agnieszka, which was accepted. Nic Haynes defeated Aaron Sequillion to set up a tie for first. The first tie-breaker was the head to head result and since Richard defeated Nic in round 3, he was the one that earned the spot for the 2014 Alberta Closed. Nevertheless, Nic



showed that he can certainly play some good chess. Third place was shared by Dan Kazmaier, Agnieszka Matras-Clement and me. Best under 2200 was shared by: Aaron Sequillion (who probably won't be below 2200 for a while) Hafiz Karmali and a visitor from BC, Louis Cheng. They each scored 4/6. David Miller and Diwen Shi won the best junior prize also with 4/6. Best under 1900 prizes were shared by: Dante Briones, Arnold McKay and Arthur Milne with 3.5/6 each. Best under 1600 first prize went to Alexey Taranik from Red Deer (3/6) ahead of Leah Hughey, Trevor Robertson and Dumo Denni Fibersima (2.5/6 each). Best Jr. under 1500 award was shared by Kaixin Wang and Sean Kenneth Mah (2.5/6 each).



19th Medicine Hat Open

Report by Dr. William P. Taylor

The 19th Annual Medicine “OPEN” (Fall) Chess Tournament took place on another relatively warm, sunny “Fall” weekend. We have been blessed almost since the inception of this tournament with sunshine and warmth, for which I know everyone is grateful. Regrettably due to absence of staff for the world’s “**Largest Chess Set**”, new out of town players were not able to see the wonderfully crafted GIANT CHESS SET pieces. Perhaps next year!

This year we were pleased to welcome **16** participants, including 8 people who had never been to our tournament before. Missing was our defending champion (Mr. Vlad Rekhson), but in his place he sent Mr. Ali Razzaq, the Treasurer for the Alberta Chess Association. He assisted in directing the Tournament, for which I am very grateful. Of the 8 “new” players, 1 was from Medicine Hat and the other 7 were from elsewhere. These included 3 from Edmonton, 1 from Calgary, 1 from Taber, a Junior player (Zachary Lintott) from Regina, and Dr. Mark Anderson, a College Professor from Browning, Montana. It was great to have 8 “new” faces join us to experience the Medicine Hat hospitality.

This year for the first time in our 19 year history, we had a non-Grandmaster, Aaron Sequillion win our tournament with a perfect **5/5** record. Aaron’s most challenging game probably was against Adam Harris (from Calgary) who finished clear second with **4/5**. There was a three-way tie for third place between John Quiring, Dr. Mark Anderson, and Andrew Wallbank with **3/5** points. Due to Andrew’s place in the lower half of the rated players in his tournament, he captured the first place prize for players with a rating of 1750 or less. Tied for second in this section were Tristan Tran-Ly, Zachary Lintott (both Juniors), and John (Steve) Le Bigot, all with **2.5/5**. All the winners in the two sections were awarded prizes consisting of either merchandise, and/or gift certificates, and/or cash.

True to tradition, all tournament participants were treated to the usual Medicine Hat Chess Club and “Taylor-made” hospitality. This was, in no small part, due to my wife, Margaret, who attended to the provision of Saturday Night drinks and

dessert (which consisted of great carrot cake made by the Cheesecake Café, frozen strawberries, ice cream, Lucerne whipped cream, and cream puffs). The usual offerings of complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate, a variety of soft drinks, assorted muffins, and a plentitude of Werther’s® soft and hard candies, hickory smoked almonds, and white chocolate coated peanuts, and President’s Choice® “gourmet” jelly beans was also available. All of this came courtesy of the generous support of **52** sponsors. Prior to the commencement of each round, my valued local colleague, Andrew Wallbank, shared a variety of jokes with the assembled multitude. This tradition, started in 2009, will continue. Steve Panteluk even joined in this year to share a joke with the crowd. In addition to the Saturday night “**Dessert and Drinks**” social (for the twelfth consecutive year!), we once again offered “**Lunch for a Buck**” on Sunday, for the 16th straight year. As Margaret was unavailable, Andrew Wallbank very kindly assisted me by picking up the pizza from Pizza 73. Additionally, we had fresh garden green salad with two types of dressing, and leftover carrot cake. Thanks to our sponsors, **\$285.00** was injected into the tournament prize fund, over and above the entry fees. This is the **15th** straight year that our prize fund has exceeded the value of the entry fees. With the anticipated ongoing support of our many sponsors, and the new sponsors that I continue to find, I will continue to offer all of these “perks” and enhancements next year.

Medicine Hat (and Canada’s) unique **GIANT CHESS SET Project** enjoyed an eighth full season. We once again hired two “**Chess Educators/Civic Ambassadors**” (Jessica Caparini and Conrad Huculuk) who worked for our Project from May 17th - September 2nd. They were excellent employees! We held the sixth “Live” chess game on the lawn in front of the Court of Queen’s Bench building close to our GIANT CHESS SET, on Saturday afternoon, June 1st during Medicine Hat’s “Spectrum” festival; and participated in “Heritage Day” activities on Monday, August 5th. This year, we welcomed over **4,000** visitors to our Project.

Funding for this Project was again obtained from a variety of federal, provincial, and local sources. The Medicine Hat Chess Society (MHCS) participated in its

third casino on September 9 and 10, 2012, which replenished our account. Our next casino is scheduled for March 20 and 21, 2014. Chess players and organizers throughout Alberta are invited to contact the undersigned for advice on how to create a permanently surfaced GIANT CHESS Set in your community.

I continue to challenge other tournament committees and TDs elsewhere to offer similar enhancements at their tournaments. I believe this is being done in some locales, and for this I am sure the participants are very grateful. Such enhancements would not be possible, without the support of sponsors. As stated many times before, (and worth repeating again!), **SPONSORSHIP MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE!!** Please feel free to contact me if you want some ideas on how to go about it. It’s not really that difficult. Until next year ...

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,

taylorwmw@shaw.ca

NM Alex Yam is perfect at 2014

John Schleinich Memorial

Report by Vlad Rekhson

28 players attended the first ACA event of 2014. National Master Alex Yam was perfect in section A with a score of 5/5! This was good enough to double the score of the second place finishers as NMs Gary Ng and Martin Robichaud finished with 2.5/5 each. Section B saw a share of first between Calgary junior Diwen Shi and Edmonton junior David Miller with 4/5 each. All other sections were dominated by Juniors. Section C was won by Tamir Bulga with 4/5 ahead of Tristan Tran-Ly from Edmonton. Section D was dominated by two Calgary juniors as Bryan Ma won first with 4.5/5 while Ian Zhao finished second with 3.5/5. In section E the lead was also taken by the juniors as well as a new Calgary arrival. Vishwa Sharma won first with 4.5/6 ahead of Raphael Libre who finished with 3.5/6.

Old Scona Academic and IM Richard Wang win the 2013 AB High School Championship

By Vlad Rekhson

The 2013 AB High School Championship was won by International Master Richard Wang, who as expected was the class of the field. Second place went to his teammate Sammy Wu, who outplayed another teammate, Divya Shah in a play-off for second place. The best school was Old Scona Academic from Edmonton who took first with 16 points. The winning team members were: IM Richard Wang, Sammy Wu, Divya Shah and Dennis Situ. Second best school and the winner of the Calgary competition was Renert Academy that finished with 9.5 points. The defending Calgary champions Bear Spaw finished third with 8.5 points.

2014 AB Youth Championship

By Vlad Rekhson

79 players took part in the largest AB Youth Championship in recent memory. The U8 section was won by William Bradford from Edmonton ahead of Khino Angelo Tolentino and Vishruth Sharma, both from Calgary. The top girl was Shanaya Pillai from Fort McMurray.

In the U10 championship there was a three way tie for first but after the tie-break Ian Zhao from Calgary won his third provincial championship ahead of Sean Mah from Edmonton and Quirck Migrino from Calgary. The winners scored 4/5 points each. Carla Robitu from Edmonton was the best girl.

The U12 division was the largest one and featured some really tough fights. It is this division that had the longest games of the round most of the time. Patrick Angelo Tolentino from Calgary won first with 4.5/5. Second was contested on a tie-break which was won by Kaixin Wang of Edmonton ahead of Jeff Wang from Calgary. Sydney Mah from Edmonton was the top girl.

The U14 division also featured three players tie for first with 4/5. After the tie-break, Nicholas Lee from Edmonton won the title ahead of Johnny Burn from Fort McMurray (best ever result by a Fort McMurray competitor) and Prayus Shrestha from Edmonton. Hope Gagne from Calgary won the top girl prize.

In the U16 division, IM Richard Wang

from Edmonton was the class of the field as he won it with a perfect 5/5. Diwen Shi from Calgary finished second with 4/5 and Tamir Bulga from Calgary finished third with 3/5. Aishwarya Gurumurthy from Fort McMurray was the top girl.

The U18 section included 3 players. Jafar Faraji from Lethbridge won first giving the city its best ever result. Second was won by Boris Verkhoyanskiy ahead of William Wensley, both from Calgary.

A special thanks goes to Paul Gagne for running the event, as well as to Angelo Tolentino, Ghirindar Koneru, Harris Wang and Jina Burn for assisting with the organization. Jina Burn must be commended on bringing in a fantastic group of 29 participants all the way from Fort McMurray to Calgary! Full standing are available at <http://www.albertachess.org/2014AByouth.php>

Geoff Newton Memorial Sectional

Report by Vlad Rekhson

Geoff Newton Memorial Sectional commemorated the passing of our friend Geoff Newton in January 2013. The 2012 Edmonton Fall Sectional was the last event in which Geoff took part in. The 2013 edition of the tournament was held on November 1-3 at the Edmonton Chess Club. The tournament was held in a traditional sectional format where players compete in sections of six players per section according to their ratings.

Section A was won by FM Vladimir Pechenkin with 4.5/5 ahead of Aaron Sequillion (3.5/5). Third place was shared by David Miller and Peter Kalisvaart with 2.5/5 each.

Section B was taken by the organizer Mike Zeggelaar who scored 4.5/5 ahead of Jason Winhon, George Bukowski and George Sponga with 3/5 each.

Section C was won by Suresh Kadavil who scored 4/5 ahead of Kaixin Wang 3/5. Two players who made a long trip to come to the tournament shared third as Robert Gibson from Fort McMurray shared it with Joel Stainer from Dawson Creek, BC. They each scored 2.5/5.

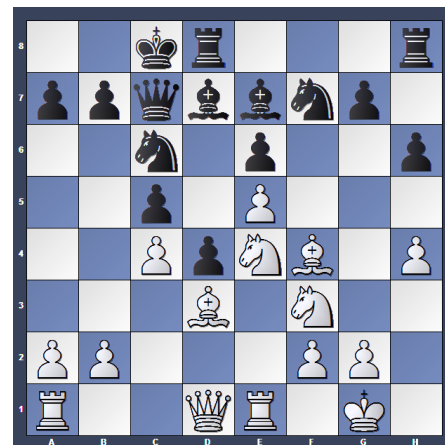
A special thanks goes to Mike Zeggelaar who ran the tournament as well as Terry Seehagen who assisted with the organization. Final standings for all three sections are available at the event webpage <http://www.albertachess.org/2013GNMS.html>

Sequillion, Aaron (2016) – Pechenkin, Vladimir (2337) [C02]

Geoff Newton Memorial (4), 03.11.2013

Annotated by Vladimir Pechenkin

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5.♗f3 ♙d7 6.♙e2 f6 A sharp line that leads to double-edged play. **7.0-0 fxe5 8.dxe5 ♖c7 9.♙f4 0-0-0 10.c4 d4 11.♗bd2** The knight intends to jump to d6, this is one of White's main ideas in this variation. **11...♗h6 12.♙e1 ♗f7** Now that d6 is covered Black is going to prepare g7-g5. **13.♙d3** White reinforces e5 but gives Black valuable time to develop the initiative. **13.♗g5!?** ♗xg5 **14.♙xg5 ♙e8 15.♙h5 g6 16.♙f6** slowing down Black's kingside operations. **13...♙e7 14.♗e4** Curiously, we have now transposed to the game Motylev – Ivanov, 1997. **14...h6** The aforementioned game continued **14...♗df8 15.♙g3 g5 16.♗f6 h5 17.h3** with an unclear position. **15.h4?** This attempt to slow Black down backfires.



Correct is **15.♙g3!** and Black has some difficulties in proceeding. For example, **15...g5?! 16.♗f6! h5 17.♗d5! 15...g5!** Anyway! **16.hxg5?** Opening up the h-file is suicidal. White must play **16.♙g3** keeping the h-file closed. After **16...gxh4 17.♗xh4 ♖hg8 18.♗f3 ♗fxe5 19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 20.♙e2 ♗df8** Black is better but the game is far from being over. **16...hxg5 17.♗exg5 ♗xg5 18.♗xg5 ♗df8! 19.g3?** Now Black wins quickly. The only way to prolong the battle is **19.♙d2 ♙xg5 20.♙xg5 ♗xe5 21.♙xe5 ♙xe5 22.f4** sacrificing an exchange to save the king for the time being. **19...♙xg5 20.♙xg5 ♗xe5 21.♙e4 21.♙f4** doesn't change anything. For example, **21...♙c6 22.f3 ♗xf3+ 23.♙xf3 ♙xf3 24.♙xc7 ♖h1+ 25.♗f2 ♖h2+ 26.♗f1 ♙xc7** and wins. **21...♙c6!** Black's position plays itself. **22.f4 ♙xe4 23.♙xe4 ♙h7 0-1**

BEYOND ALBERTA

2013 World Youth Championship

By Vlad Rekhson

A record 1773 players from 171 countries participated in the World Youth Championship which took place in Al-Ain, UAE. Canada was represented by 41 players including two Albertans, plus IM Edward Porper who was one of the Team Canada coaches. Albertans IM Richard Wang (Edmonton) and Diwen Shi (Calgary) had a decent event even though it wasn't outstanding. Richard finished with 7.5/11 in the U-16 category which was good enough for 16th place (tied for 10-20) and somewhat of an improvement over his 21st rank at the start. Richard will have a chance to improve on this result and hopefully earn his third medal in the World Championships next year when he will still be in the same category.

Diwen is much less experienced than Richard in International events, so the most important thing for him was to gain more experience. He scored a respectable 6/11 in the U-14 category.

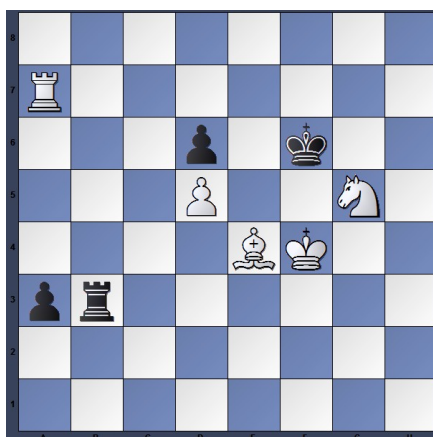
The best Canadian performance was shown by Harmony Zhu from Toronto, ON. She scored 9/11 and became the U-8 Girls World Champion!

It seems that Canada is gradually improving on the world stage. When Richard Wang won the Bronze medal in the U-12 category back in 2009, this marked the first medal that Canada has earned since 1986. The situation has improved quite drastically ever since. In 2010 Jason Cao from Victoria, BC became the U-10 World Champion. Michael Song won Bronze in U-12 in 2011, Richard Wang repeated his success last year as he won bronze in the U-14 category with the Bronze medal, while this year we have another gold. Hopefully this streak of medals will continue and hopefully expand!

Wang, Richard (2362) - Daskalov, Dimitar (2156) [E90]
WYCC U16, Al Ain (4.19), 21.12.2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.h3 e5 7.d5 a5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Be3 Na6 10.g4 Nc5 11.Nd2 Ne8 12.h4 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.g5 Qe7 15.Qh5 Qf7 16.g6 Qd7 17.Bxh6 Nf6 18.Qg5 Ng4 19.Bxg7

Kxg7 20.Be2 Nh6 21.0-0-0 a4 22.f4 Qd8 23.Qxd8 Rxd8 24.h5 exf4 25.Rdf1 Re8 26.Rxf4 Bd7 27.Nf3 Re7 28.Nd4 Rae8 29.Kc2 Ne4 30.Nxe4 Rxe4 31.Rxe4 Rxe4 32.Kd3 Re5 33.Bf3 Ng8 34.Nb5 f4 35.Nd4 Kh6 36.Rg1 Kg7 37.Rh1 Kh6 38.Rh4 Kg5 39.Rh2 Kh6 40.Rg2 Bh3 41.Rg1 Bd7 42.Kd2 b6 43.Ne2 b5 44.cxb5 Bxb5 45.Nxf4 Rf5 46.Ke3 Re5+ 47.Kf2 Rf5 48.Ne6 Bc4 49.Nxc7 Bxa2 50.Ke3 Re5+ 51.Kf4 Bb3 52.Rg2 Bc4 53.Rc2 Bd3 54.Rc6 Re7 55.Ne6 Rb7 56.Rc8 Rb4+ 57.Kg3 Bxg6 58.hxg6 Ne7 59.g7 Nf5+ 60.Kh3 Nxf7 61.Rh8+ Kg6 62.Rg8 Rxb2 63.Rxg7+ Kf6 64.Ra7 Rb3 65.Kg4 a3 66.Kf4 Rb4+ 67.Be4 Rb3 68.Ng5 1-0



GM Eric Hansen earns his first 2700+ scalp

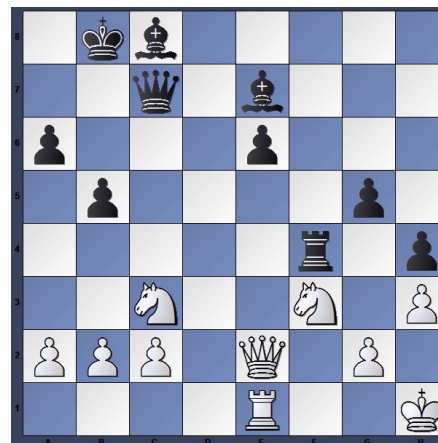
GM Eric Hansen from Calgary, is currently residing in Valencia, Spain as it is much easier and cheaper to travel to chess tournaments from there, rather than having to constantly take flights from Alberta. In December 2013 he reached a new milestone as he defeated GM Arkadij Naiditsch (2734). This marks his first victory over a player of such caliber.

Event "Schachbundesliga 2013/2014"
Date "2013.12.14"
White "Naiditsch, Arkadij (2737)"
Black "Hansen, Eric" (2550)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Bd3 Nf6 7. O-O Bc5 8. Nb3 Be7 9. f4 d6 10. e5 dxe5 11. fxe5 Nfd7 12. Kh1 Nc6 13. Qg4 g6 14. Bh6 Ndx6 15. Qg3 f5 16. Rael Bd6 17. Qh4

It is probably no coincidence that up until now the game followed Van-Kampen-Spoelman (2010) since GM Robin Van Kampen is Eric's roommate.

17...Be7 18. Qh3 Bd7 19. Bg7 Rg8 20. Bxe5 Nxe5 21. Qg3 Bd6 22. Bxf5 O-O-O 23. Be4 Rg8 24. Qh4 h5 25. h3 Kb8 26. Nd2 Bc8 27. Rxf8 Rxf8 28. Rd1 Be7 29. Qg3 h4 30. Qe1 g5 31. Qe2 Rf4 32. Bf3 b5 33. Re1 Nxf3 34.Nxf3



34...g4 35. hxg4 h3 36. Nd5 hxg2+ 37. Kxg2 Rxc4+ 38. Kf1 Qg3 39. Qe5+ Bd6 40. Qxg3 Rxc3 0-1

GM Eric Hansen takes 2nd in Barcelona Masters

GM Hansen finished in second place at the Barcelona Masters which took place on October 25-31. This was an 8-player round-robin all-GM event where Eric was ranked fourth at the start. Eric scored 4/7 to tie for second, and due to better tie-breaks that was his final ranking.

Hansen, Eric (2567) - Shankland, Sam (2605) [B48]
Barcelona Masters (4), 28.10.2013

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.f4 b5 9.e5 b4 10.Ncb5 axb5 11.Nxb5 Qb8 12.exf6 gxf6 13.c4 bxc3 14.bxc3 Ra5 15.a4 Ba6 16.Kf2 Be7 17.Be2 0-0 18.Qxd7 Bb7 19.Rhd1 Rc8 20.g3 Bf8 21.Nd6 Bxd6 22.Qxd6 Qa8 23.Rdb1 Rd5 24.Qa3 Ba6 25.c4 Nd4 26.cxd5 Nxe2 27.Qb3 exd5 28.Bd2 Re8 29.Qb6 Kg7 30.f5 Nc3 31.Bh6+ Kg8 32.Re1 Be2 33.Qd4 Qc8 34.Kg1 Qa6 35.Qg4+ 1-0



2014 Alberta Active Championship, Round 2. Foreground: Vladislav Rekhson – Jerry Kobalenko. Background: Alexey Taranik – Chris McKim.

2014 AB Active Championship

Without exaggeration, there is no other tournament like this one on the ACA calendar. This single-day event is held in Red Deer, the location being chosen specifically to encourage participation from both Edmonton and Calgary. The format is a 5-round Swiss beginning at noon. Thus, there is no need to find a place to stay overnight, and each player is guaranteed five fast-paced competitive games in just six hours. It is therefore not surprising at all that the last year's edition of the event had featured GM Eric Hansen himself.



Chris McKim

This year the player roster was far less formidable attracting a total of 17 people. The surprise of the tournament was Chris McKim, whose only CFC rated event in the new millennium had been the 2012

Alberta Open. There Chris started with 3/3 defeating Nicka Kalaydina, Itohan Gold and the late Geoff Newton. It is therefore clear that with his current CFC rating of only 1677 Chris is vastly underrated. Still, some of his opponents might have been unaware of that, which Chris beautifully capitalized on. In fact, he finished with an astonishing score of 5/5 leaving the rest of the field far behind. The second place was shared by Vlad Rekhson, David Miller and Vladimir Pechenkin with a score of 3.5/5.



A special thanks goes to Alexey Taranik for organizing and directing the event.

2014 March of Kings

The traditional annual tournament attracted 26 participants this time. In the absence of a clear rating favorite or favorites the competition was tight. After 4 rounds of play NM Gary Ng was leading

with a perfect score. However, his last round loss to FM Dale Haessel resulted in a four-way tie for the first place. Apart from Gary and Dale, Diwen Shi and David Miller (the only undefeated player) were also able to jump onto the pedestal with their last round wins. All four winners thus finished with 4/5.

41 players participated in the 2014 Northern Alberta Open

Report by Vlad Rekhson

IM Richard Wang and the surprising Kim Nguyen won the 2014 Northern Alberta Open. Richard had a slightly better tie-break which was used to determine the AB Championship qualification spot. Since Richard doesn't need it the spot will be available to the third highest among those who didn't qualify by winning a qualifying event. Kim showed some enterprising play and on his way for the tie for third he defeated FMs Pechenkin and Haessel, drew IM Wang and beat NM Alex Yam.

2014 Lethbridge Open

This year's edition of the now traditional event on the Alberta chess calendar featured a record attendance of 31 players improving on the last year's mark of 27 participants. Prior to the start of round 1 it looked like the tournament should be won by one of the experienced Road Warriors who decided to make it to Lethbridge this time. However, the surprising winner turned out to be Cyril Nerubenko, who hadn't played a CFC rated game thus far. Cyril finished with a perfect 5/5 defeating three of his main competitors (David Miller, Aaron Sequillion and Vladislav Rekhson) along the way. David and Vlad shared the second place with 4/5.

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



2014 AB Schools Championship

65 players from 20 schools participated in the second edition of the event that was held at the Chateau Nova hotel in Edmonton on May 24. The format of the tournament remained the same as last year. Each division was a 5-round Open Swiss, and the best four individual results from a school were combined to yield a total team score. The time control was 20 minutes per game with a 5-second increment.

All individual and team champions were determined without a need to resort to tie-breaks. Andi Superceanu from Stratford dominated Division I (grades 1–3) finishing with a perfect score of 5/5. Paul Wang (Huntington) scored 4/5 taking the second place. Alexander Tan (Meyonohk) had the best tie-breaker in a large group with 3/5. David Yao (Westbrook) emerged victorious with 4.5/5 in a very tightly contested

Division II (grades 4–6), with 5 other players scoring 4/5. One of them was Carla Robitu (Stratford) who claimed the "Top Girl" prize. Patrick Angelo Tolentino (St. Jerome) was awarded the second place, while Lenard Grossmann got third. The team competition was also extremely tight. In the end, Nellie McClung managed to finish with 11.5 points, half a point ahead of Westbrook, Stratford and McKernan.

Division III (grades 7–9) was won by Andre Angelo Tolentino (St. Elizabeth). Meghana Kompally (McTavish) and Rahul Bhatnagar (St. Elmer Gish) claimed second and third, respectively.

Quite predictably, the highest rated player of the event IM Richard Wang (Old Scona Academic) finished with 5/5 in Division IV (grades 10–12). His teammates Dennis Situ (4.5/5) and Sammy Wu (4/5) occupied the rest of the pedestal. Sure enough, Old Scona also claimed the team trophy.

The most interesting game of the event was the encounter between IM Wang and Johnny Burn from Fort McMurray. Quite surprisingly, Black won the opponent's queen by move 8 and obtained a decisive material advantage. The photo below features a position that occurred on the board after the following moves.

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ♜g4 4.♗f3 d6 5.exd6 ♙xd6 6.h3?? ♜xf2! 7.♗xf2 ♙g3+ 8.♗xg3 ♚xd1 9.♛c3 ♚d6+ 10.♙f4 ♚g6+ 11.♗h2 0-0 12.♛d5

White has some initiative but his position is objectively lost. However, Richard managed to come back into the game and get a full point.

The ACA would like to thank David Miller and Vlad Rekhson for organizing and directing the tournament, Jackie Mah for finding an excellent playing hall as well as volunteers Stefan Grossmann and Harris Wang for their help on site.



Division II, round 4. Sean Mah – David Yao (foreground) and Patrick Angelo Tolentino – Lenard Grossmann (background)

IM Richard Wang – Johnny Burn, round 4. Apparently, Richard is not discouraged at all by an early loss of his queen.

2014 Trumpeter Classic

The 31st edition of the traditional event was held at the Sandman hotel in Grande Prairie over the course of the weekend of June 7-8. Just as last year, Caughlin Financial Services and the ACA boosted the prize fund by \$1000, which made the first prize in the Open section close to \$500. Wade Caughlin also sponsored a speed chess tournament on Friday night that was held as a 10-player round robin.



David Miller is in a great mood

The main event saw a fierce fight for the first place among the rating favorites. The key games turned out to be Miller – Sequillion (round 3) and Sequillion – Gardner (round 4).

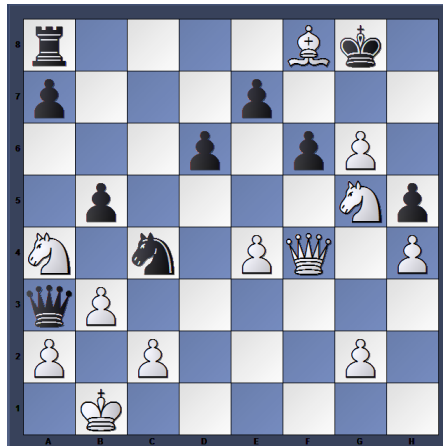
Sequillion, Aaron (2168) – Gardner, Robert (2294) [B06]

31st Trumpeter (4), 08.06.2014

1.e4 g6 2.d4 3.g7 3...d3 d6 4.h4 A rare move that scores well. **4...h5 5. e3 d7 6. d2 c5** This is already a novelty but White can hardly complain about being out of book. He has a pleasant position with a clear plan of kingside attack. **7.0-0-0 cxd4 8. dxd4 d6 9.f4 d6 10. d3 e6** Black plays provocatively and gets into trouble quickly. **11. d5 g4 12. e2 xe2 13. xe2 0-0 14.f5!** Black has serious problems on light squares. **14...c8 15. hf1 c4 16. f3** White is clearly not interested in endgames although **16. xc4 dxc4 17. fxg6 fxg6 18.b3 d5 19. xe5 dxe5 20. d6** does look good. **16...d4 17.b3 a6?** After this mistake White obtains a winning position. **17...c8** covering e6 is the only move. **18. xg7 dh2** It really is time for desperate measures. **18...xg7 19. fxg6** leads to total annihilation. **19. f4 dx1 20. xf8 a3+ 21. b1 d4 22. da4 dfe3 23. fxg6 f6 24. d4 b5** Black keeps the position as messy as possible and suddenly succeeds. **25. xxc4 dxc4** The critical point of the game.



Blitz tournament prior to the main event. Foreground: Tim Pradzinski – Wade Caughlin



26. c1? Aaron didn't have much time on the clock and couldn't pull the trigger. The only winning continuation is **26. xe7!! bxa4 27. xf6**. The bishop successfully navigates through a maze of black pawns and gets back just in time to cover b2. After **27...axb3 28. axb3 a5 29. d3** the black king will not survive for long. White opts for the computer's second line and suddenly goes from totally winning to completely lost! **26...xc1+?** Black partially returns the favor. After **26...fxg5 27. xe7 bxa4** White would have resigned fairly soon. **27. xc1 xf8 28. d6 c8 29. d3** The game isn't over yet; Black is required to demonstrate his technique. **29...d3! 30. d2 b4! 31. d5 dxd5 32. exd5 c3 33. d4 g3 34. d6 xg2+ 35. d3 f8 36. dxb4 xg6 37. d6 g4 38. dxa7 e8 39.**

a4 d7 40.a5 So far so good but now Black gets a little too fancy. **40...e6. 40...xh4** wins without much drama, e.g., **41. d6 g4 42.a6 c7 43. xe7 h4** and the pawn is unstoppable. **41.dxe6+ xe6 42.a6 d5** More natural is **42...d7 43. b5 c6 44.a7 b7 45. xd6+ xa7** It's not as clear as before but should still be winning. **43. d8 g3+?** It is this check that costs Black half a point. **43...c6 44. a7 b7 45. xd6+ xa7** transposes to the line above. **44. d2 c6 45.a7 d b7 46. xd6+ xa7 47. d4! f3 48. d e2** Black is going to lose both of his pawns and there is nothing that he can do about it. **48...f4 49. e3 xh4 50. dxf6 b6 51. f3 b5 52. g3 h1 53. g2 c1 54.c4+ b4 55. dxh5** The rest is redundant. **55...xb3 56. d f3 dxc4 57. d4 e1 58. d2 a1 59. d3 e8 60. d4 e8+ 61. f3 f8+ 62. d4 e8+ 63. f3 d5 64. d4+ d e5 65. d3+ f5 66. d4 e4 67. d2 a4 68. d3 d5 69. d3 h4 70. d3 d4+ 71. d3 d8 72. d2 a8 73. d3 h8 74. d3 h3+ 1/2-1/2**

What a crazy game! Aaron and Rob ended up in a tie for the first place finishing with 4/5. FM Vladimir Pechenkin and David Miller followed with 3.5/5.

The ACA would like to thank Tim Pradzinski for organizing and directing the tournament, as well as Wade Caughlin for co-organizing and sponsoring the event.

20th Annual Medicine Hat Open

September 20 & 21, 2014

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.

Format: 5 round Swiss

CFC and FIDE rated

Organizer: Medicine Hat Chess Club

Tournament Director: Dr. Bill Taylor

Time Control: Game in 90 min + 30 sec/move

Round times: Saturday – 10:15am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm
Sunday – 9am, 1pm or ASAP

Entry Fee: \$30 adult, \$25 junior, if paid in advance, add \$5 late fee at the door. Free entry to players rated 2300+. No prize option: \$15. CFC Membership is required and may be purchased on-site. Tournament membership is \$21 for adults, \$11 for juniors.

Registration: Visit www.albertachess.org/2014MHO.php and fill out a registration form. In Medicine Hat, pay Bill Taylor at the club. Cash only. Limit of 40 players, first come, first serve basis. Pre-registration encouraged. On-site registration: Saturday, September 20, 9:00 – 9:45am.

Prizes: BEN > 100%! Merchandise included. Prize sections to be determined by rating distribution. 1st and 2nd place plaques, Permanent Trophy nameplate.

Misc: Free Snacks, “Drinks and Dessert” (Saturday night). “Lunch for a Buck” (Sunday). Jokes! Extensive chess library with some antique chess books (> 100 years old!). A limited number of billets may be available.

For more information, contact Dr. Bill Taylor:
(403) 526-5484 (home); (403) 529-0221 (work)
e-mail: taylormw@shaw.ca

This is a *Road Warrior* Event!



Also sponsored by the *Alberta Chess Association*



2014 Battle of Alberta

September 13, 2014

Red Deer Lodge, Pine Lake Room
4311 49th Ave., Red Deer, Alberta
Tournament Arbiter: Alexey Taranik



Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association

Battle Regulations

North battles South. Dividing line: Red Deer river or 52°16'05"N elsewhere in the province. Each team must field 12 players arranged according to their ratings in a descending order. The higher of each player's CFC and FIDE rating is used to determine the board order.

Two rounds are played against the same opponent, one game with white, the other with black. Drawing of lots for colours will be done immediately before round 1.

Team North Captain: Micah Hughey
email: mhughe@rocketmail.com

Team South Captain: Vlad Rekhson
email: vrekhsn@yahoo.ca

The winning team gets the Battle of AB trophy. If the match ends up in a 12-12 tie, the defending champion South keeps the trophy.

CFC & FIDE rated. CFC membership is required and may be purchased on site. All expired CFC memberships must be renewed prior to round 1.

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

Default late time: 60 minutes unless the Arbiter decides otherwise.

Final roster/board order announcements must be made by **noon, Wednesday, September 10th**. The CFC rating list published on **September 4th** will be used to determine players' ratings.

History: The Battle of Alberta was first introduced in 1996. The score since that time is 9-9. Team South won in 2013 with a score of 13:11, NM Daniel Kazmaier defeating IM Richard Wang in the last game to finish to secure the decisive point.

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**

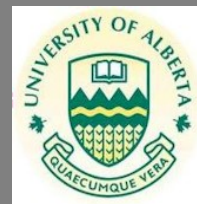
Contact Gregory Holmes
Email

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.wikifoundry.com/>



Clubs in Alberta



ECC Back to School Open

September ECC Thursday nights

40 players took part at the Thursday Night ECC event. FM Vladimir Pechenkin was clear first with a perfect 4/4. 6 players shared second with 3/4. They included: NM Rob Gardner, NM Micah Hughey, Tristan Tran-Ly, Aaron Sequillion, Louay El-Choufi and Filip Phillipchuk

ECC Halloween Open

October ECC Thursday Nights

37 players took part in the October ECC Thursday night event. Mike Zeggelaar was the surprise winner with 4/5 including a win over FM Vladimir Pechenkin who shared second together with NM Micah Hughey, Trevor Robertson and Louay El-Choufi. All second place finishers scored 3.5/5.

ECC November Open

November ECC Thursday Nights

41 players took part in the November ECC Thursday night competition. NM Rob Gardner finished clear first with a perfect 4/4. The surprise second place went to Kaushal Wadugodapitiya 3.5/4. FM Vladimir Pechenkin and Lenard Grossmann shared third with 3/4 each.

All Thursday night events in Edmonton were directed by Micah Hughey

Calgary Chess Club News



CCC Back to School Open

September CCC Tuesday nights

Only 9 players came to the CCC September Tuesday night event. Douglas Nechio finished first with 3.5/4 ahead of: Brian Miller (3/4).

CCC Chris Kuczaj Memorial

October CCC Tuesday nights

The October CCC Tuesday night event

was dedicated to the memory of a former Alberta Champion-Chris Kuczaj who passed away earlier in 2013. Jim Daniluk finished first with 4.5/5 ahead of the surprising junior-Chen Wu (4/5).

CCC November Knights

November CCC Tuesday nights

15 players came out for the November Tuesday night event. Walter Watrson won the tournament with 3.5/4. Second was shared by: NM Roy Yearwood, Brian Miller and Tamir Bulga with 3/4 each.

CJCC Halloween Open

November 2

Patrick Angelo Tolentino won the Open section of the November Jr. event with 4.5/5. Best in the Intermediate section went to: John Vaganov who scored 3/4. The Beginner section was won by: Albert Zhang who scored a perfect 5/5 and the Girls went to: Shekinah Munoz with 5/6. 23 players took part in the tournament.

CJCC Thanksgiving Open

October 5

The October CJCC Open event was won by: Jeff Wang and Patrick Angelo Tolentino with: 4/5 each. Jazer Buan won the intermediate section with a perfect 5/5 for the second month in a row. Oscar Munoz was a perfect 4/4 in the beginner section while Rachel Gagne was the best girl and finished with 5/6. A total of 23 players attended the event.

CJCC Back to School

September 14

The September monthly junior event was attended by: 28 junior players. The Open section was won by: Chen Wu and Andre Angelo Tolentino with 4/5 each. The Intermediate section was won by: Jazer Buan with a perfect 5/5. The Beginner section was won by: Victor Zhao and Aaron Abraham with 4/5 each. The Girls section was won by: Shaira Munoz with a perfect 4/4.

La Crete Chess Club

October Latitude

October 19

Abe Wiebe and Chris White won the October event in La-Crete with 3.5/4 each. Carlito Somera and John Krahn shared third with 3/4 each. Jessica Somera won

the junior portion of the competition with 3/3 ahead of: James Somera who finished with 2./3.

August Latitude

August 7

Carlito Somera won the Open section of the August Latitude event held in the Northern community with 3.5/4. Second place was taken by Rock Borger (3/4) ahead of the organizer Chris White 2.5/4.

The junior section was won by James Somera, who scored a perfect 4/4 ahead of Carmen and Dmitri Friesen, as well as, Ethan Cole, all of whom scored 2.5/4. A total of 15 players took part in the event.



Somera, Carlito - White, Chris

Latitude 58, 08.09.2013

1.e4 e6 2.Bc4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bb3 Nf6 5.h3 Bc5 6.d4 Bd6 7.Nc3 c6 8.Qe2+ Be6 9.Bg5 0-0 10.Nf3 Re8 11.0-0-0 Nbd7 12.Qd3 Qc7 13.g3 c5 14.dxc5 Nxc5 15.Qd4 Be7 16.Kb1 Rad8 17.Ne2 Nce4 18.c3 Bc5 19.Qe5 Qxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxf2 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Nd3 Nxh1 23.Nxc5 Nf2 24.Rf1 Ne4 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Bxe6 Rxe6 27.Nd4 Red6 28.Rd1 Kg7 29.Nf5+ Kg6 30.Nxd6 e3 31.Re1 Rxd6 32.Rxe3 Re6 33.Rf3 1/2-1/2

Banff Chess Club

Pioneer Room, 107 Bear St.

The club meets every Thursday at 7 pm.

banffchess.com



2014 ACA Tournament Schedule

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

www.albertachess.org/

Tournaments noted with a star are eligible for

Road Warrior Points.



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 had the highest attendance of ACA Open events by Albertans to date. A total of 221 players took part in competitions.

The prizes in 2013 were distributed as follows:

1st: \$200 – Aaron Sequillion

2nd: \$100 – Vlad Rekhson

3rd: \$50 – Richard Pua

A special draw prize of \$150 was awarded to one player who travelled to at least two open ACA events outside their region (one hour of travel or more). The draw took place at the first ACA event of 2014, the John Schleinich Memorial. A total of 37 players were eligible for the draw, FM Dale Haessel emerging as a lucky winner.

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

2013 Final Standings

Date	Event	Organizer	Location
Jan 3-5	Schleinich Sectional*	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Jan 18	Lethbridge Youth	Peter Davis-Imhof	Lethbridge
Jan 25	Calgary Youth	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Jan 18	Fort McMurray Youth	Jina Burn	Ft. McMurray
Jan 18	Edmonton Youth	Harris Wang	Edmonton
Feb 8-9	University Battle of AB*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Feb 15-16	Northern AB Open*	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton
Feb 22-23	AB Youth Championship	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Mar 8-9	March of Kings*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Apr 12	Calgary Schools	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Mar-Apr	Various School	Multiple	Multiple
Apr 5-6	Lethbridge Open*	Dr. P. Viminiz	Lethbridge
Apr 18-20	AB Closed/Reserves*	Vladimir Pechenkin	Edmonton
Apr 19-20	AB Women's*	Vladimir Pechenkin	Calgary
May 4	AB Active*	Alexey Taranik	Red-Deer
May 17-18	Red-Deer Open*	Alexey Taranik	Red-Deer
May 24	AB Schools	David Miller	Edmonton
May 31-Jun 1	Edm Int. Qualifer*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Jun 7-8	31st Trumpeter Classic*	Wade Caughlin	Grande-Prairie
Jun 14-15	AB Seniors	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Jun 21-Jun 29	9th Edmonton Intl.*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Jun 28-Jun 29	9th Edm. Interl. Res.*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Jul 5-6	Fort McMurray Open*	Jina Burn	Ft. McMurray
Aug 16-17	7th Calgary Intl. Qual.*	Vladislav Rekhson	Calgary
Aug 30-31	Over/Under 1800*	Vladimir Pechenkin	Edmonton
Sep 13	Battle of AB	Alexey Taranik	Red-Deer
Sep 20-21	Medicine Hat Open*	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 4-5	AB Jr. Qualifiers	Multiple	Edm./Calgary
Oct 11-13	AB Open*	David Miller	Calgary
Oct 24-26	Geoff Newton Memorial*	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton
Nov 6-11	7th Calgary Intl.*	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Nov 8-9	Calgary Intl. Res.*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Nov 22-23	AB Jr./ Reserves	Harris Wang	Edmonton
Nov 29-30	Southern AB Open*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Dec 13-14	WBX Team Tournament*	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton

1	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	38.5
3	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	38.0
4	Richard Pua	Edmonton	33.0
5	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton	28.5
6	Chris White	La Crete	26.0
7	Carlito Somera	Chateh	23.0
8	Rob Gardner	Edmonton	23.0
9	Robert Gibson	Fort McMurray	23.0
10	Roland Schech	St.Albert	20.5
11	Suresh Kadavil	Edmonton	19.5
12	IM Richard Wang	Edmonton	19.0
13	John Quiring	Edmonton	18.0
14	Steve Panteluk	Edmonton	18.0

2014 Regional Youth Championships

The tournaments were held across the province in January 2014, and the regional champions were determined in 6 age groups. The results for Calgary, Edmonton and Fort McMurray are summarized in the table below. The U18 tournament in Lethbridge was won by Jafar Faraji, second went to Josh Oba, and there was a tie for third among Jim Moore, Wilson Wong and Jacob Dumontier.

	Calgary	Edmonton	Fort McMurray
U8	1 Paul Wang		1 Lukas Skanes
	2 Khino Tolentino		2 Shahmeer Awan
	3 Vishruth Sharma		3 Rean Burkard
U10	1 Ian Zhao	1 Justin Qian	1 Mikesh Samy
	2 Quirck Migrino	2 Carla Robitu	2 Uday Roy
	3 Dylan Remington	3 Andi Superceanu	3 Dmytro Malanych
U12	1 Patrick Tolentino	1 Lenard Grossmann	1 Sujit Velmurgan
	2 Jeff Wang	2 Kaixin Wang	2 Matthew Skanes
	3 Zehan Li	3 David Yao	3 Ryan Jiang
U14	1 Nicholas Lee	1 Dennis Robitu	1 Johnny Burn
	2 Chenxi Wu	2 Prayus Shrestha	2 Robert Gibson
	3 Zeling Li		3 Sarvesh Pillai
U16	1 Tamir Bulga	1 Richard Wang	
	2 Chenxi Zhao	2 Dennis Situ	
	3 Benjamin Wolfman		

and the team winners were determined without the need to resort to tie-breaks. The champions are summarized below.

Div.I: Paul Wang (Huntington) – 5/5
 Div.II: Patrick Tolentino (St. Jerome) - 5/5
 Div.III: Chenxi Wu (F E Osborne) – 4.5/5
 Div.IV: Benjamin Wolfman (Renert) –5/5.
 The winning schools are as follows.

Div. I: Renert (13)
 Div. II: Nellie McClung (15)
 Div. III: St. Elizabeth Seton (11.5)
 Div. IV: Bears paw (13)

The organizers of the event Vlad Rekhson, Paul Gagne and Angelo Tolentino must be congratulated on being able to attract so many participants and to successfully put together such a large tournament.

University Battle of Alberta

By Vladimir Pechenkin

It's a little hard to believe but this annual competition among provincial universities has already reached its sixth edition. I participated in the first two as a member of the U of A team, and that wasn't too long ago... Thanks to the presidents of the local university clubs, the event maintains its status and is now firmly established on the ACA calendar.

This year the tournament expanded even further as Mount Royal University joined the Battle for the first time and hosted the event. As usual, community members and juniors were welcome.

The format of the tournament remained the same as last year: a 10-round Open Swiss with an active time control of G/25 min. + 10 sec./move. Neither FIDE nor CFC rated the event to keep the participation cost low for the students. Top five individual results counted for an overall team score.

A total of 43 players took part in the Battle, and for more than half of them it was their first competitive tournament in Canada. As often happened in the past, the community members occupied the pedestal. FM Dale Haessel, Vlad Rekhson and Itohan Gold shared the first place with a result of 8/10. The University of Alberta claimed the main trophy once again with a total score of 32.5 points. Their best individual results were Ulvi Ibrahimov, Logan McLeod (both with 7/10), Mohammad Ali Salehian, Elmir Mahammadov (both with 6.5/10) and Mostafa Ali (5.5). The University of Calgary finished second with 29.5, while Mount Royal came third (21.5).

A special thanks goes to Frank Kluytmans for organizing and directing the event.



Nellie McClung students winning Division II: Ryan Zang(3.5), Jason Wang(3.5), Dylan Remington(3), Michael Chan(4), Eric Li(2), Sydney Remington(2) and Andrew Xu(4)

Calgary Schools Championship

By Vladimir Pechenkin

This event that was held at the Renert School on April 12 featured a staggering attendance of 112 players competing in 4

divisions. The format was the same as for the AB Schools Championship: individual Swiss tournaments with the top 4 performers contributing towards an overall team score. In all 4 divisions both the individual

Airdrie Chess Club
Airdrie Public Library
111 304 Main Street Contact: Larry
Besplug (president) email:
besplug@shaw.ca or Dennis Young:
panaspor@hotmail.com

Calgary Chess Club
274 3359 27th St. NE
Parma Tech Centre, North Building
Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday from 12:30-5 pm.
phone: 403.264.9498
website: www.calgarychess.com

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

University of Calgary Chess Club
email: mwanless@gmail.com

Edmonton Chess Club
#204 10840-124 St
Mondays and Thursdays
6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
phone: 780.424.0283
website: [http://www.facebook.com/
TheEdmontonChessClub?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/TheEdmontonChessClub?fref=ts)

Grande Prairie Chess Club
Contact Tim Pradzinski
phone: 780.518.2281
email: database@telusplanet.net
website: www.gpchessclub.com

Fort McMurray Chess Club
Westwood Family YMCA: 221 Tundra
Drive. Thursday for adults 6PM -10PM and
for kids every Saturday 1-4PM.
For more information call Jina at:
780.715.9332 or e-mail at: swp@shaw

University of Alberta
All skill levels welcome to attend!
Blitz once each month in CAB 373 or 369

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

Lethbridge Junior Chess
Family Centre, Suite 225, 200 - 4th Avenue
South, Lethbridge Centre
Towards a Brighter Future Presentation
Room. 2:30-4:00 pm Fridays
Phone: 403.320.4232
Website: <http://www.famcentre.ca/>
Contact: Kent Karapita
kentkarapita@hotmail.com
Peter Davis-Imhoff:
peter.davisimhof@gmail.com

Red Deer Chess Club
Contact: Alexey Taranik
phone: 403-872-1062
email: taranik1978@yahoo.ca

La Crete Chess Club
Contact: Chris White
Phone or Text: (780) 821-0044 (Cell)
Email: cwnlca@gmail.com

Lethbridge Chess Club
Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South
(on the second floor in the games room)
6:00pm until 9 or 10pm
www.lethbridgechess.ca
email: lethbridgeleftie+chess@gmail.com

University of Lethbridge Chess Club
email: gregory.d.holmes.1@facebook.com

Lloydminster
Contact: Terry Chaisson
phone: 780.875.8186 or 780.871.3995

Okotoks Chess Club
Contact: Richard Bradley
Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca

Medicine Hat Chess Club
826 - 11th St. S.E Wednesdays 7 p.m. to
10:30 p.m.
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

Sherwood Park
Strathcona County Library, 2nd Floor
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

Edmonton Chess Club

#204, 10840-124 St.

ECC

Mondays & Thursday

7-11 p.m.

Saturdays

1-5 p.m.

Phone 780.424.0283

Website

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



Contact us:

Wade Caughlin

Email :

wade.caughlin@sunlife.com

www.gpchessclub.com

Calgary Chess Club



274 3359 27th St. NE

Tuesdays, Thursdays

from 7 p.m.

Saturday Junior program

10 am-4pm

Lessons available

www.calgarychess.com

Fort McMurray Chess Club

Fort McMurray Chess Club is open at
Westwood Family YMCA: 221 Tundra
Drive.

Every Thursday for adults 6PM -10PM and
for kids every Saturday 1-4PM.

For more information call Jina at:
780.715.9332 or e-mail at: swp@shaw.ca





Calgary Junior Regional Championship

October 18-19, 2014



Edmonton Junior Regional Championship

October 4-5, 2014

Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association



Calgary Chess Club
Suite 274-3359 27 St NE Calgary, AB
Organizer and TD: Paul Gagne paul.gagne@cssd.ab.ca
Eligibility: Anyone born after January 1, 1995
Sponsored by Alberta Chess Association and Calgary Jr. Chess Club

Edmonton Chess Club
#204 10840 124 St. Edmonton, AB
Organizer and TD: Harris Wang harris.wang@shaw.ca
Eligibility: Anyone born after January 1, 1995

Sections: Open, Under 1300, Under 800, Girls

Sections: Open, Under 1300, Girls

Format of the Open Section: 5 rounds Swiss
Time control: Game in 90 minutes + 30 seconds/move

Format of the Open Section: 5 rounds Swiss
Time control: Game in 90 minutes + 30 seconds/move

Format of the other sections: 7 rounds Swiss
Time control: Game in 45 minutes + 30 seconds/move

Format of the other sections: 7 rounds Swiss
Time control: Game in 45 minutes + 30 seconds/move

Entry fee: \$25 if pre-registered by October 10.
\$30 if pre-registered before October 17. \$35 on-site registration.

Entry fee: \$25 if pre-registered by September 27.
\$30 if pre-registered before October 3. \$35 on-site registration.

How to register

Visit www.albertachess.org/2014CJRC.php and fill out the registration form. Payment will be made on site with either cash or cheque made out to Alberta Chess Association. Pre-registered players must come by 9:45 am on the morning of round 1 or they won't be paired.

How to register

Visit www.albertachess.org/2014EJRC.php and fill out the registration form. Payment will be made on site with either cash or cheque made out to Alberta Chess Association. Pre-registered players must come by 9:45 am or confirm that they are coming by calling 780-424-0283 on the morning of round 1 or they won't be paired.

Estimated Schedule of the Open section

Saturday, October 18
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am
Opening ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am
Rounds 1-3: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm
Sunday, October 19
Rounds 4-5: 10 am, 2 pm

Estimated Schedule of the Open section

Saturday, October 18
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am
Opening ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am
Rounds 1-3: 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm
Sunday, October 19
Rounds 4-5: 10 am, 2 pm

Estimated Schedule of the Other sections

Saturday, October 18
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am
Opening ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am
Rounds 1-4: 10 am, 11:30, 3 pm, 5 pm
Sunday, October 19
Rounds 5-7: 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm

Estimated Schedule of the Other sections

Saturday, October 18
On-site registration: 9:00 am-9:30 am
Opening ceremony: 9:45 am-9:55 am
Rounds 1-4: 10 am, 11:30, 3 pm, 5 pm
Sunday, October 19
Rounds 5-7: 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm

Prizes in the Open section

1st place: Guaranteed spot at AB Junior Championship in Edmonton with travel expenses paid up to \$300 + Trophy + \$100 of professional coaching
2nd place: Free entry to AB Junior Open Tournament + \$100 of professional coaching + Trophy
3rd place: Trophy

Prizes in the Open section

1st place: Guaranteed spot at AB Junior Championship in Edmonton + \$150 of professional coaching + Trophy
2nd place: Free entry to AB Junior Open Tournament + \$100 of professional coaching + Trophy
3rd place: Trophy

Prizes in the Other sections

1st place: Free entry to AB Jr. Championship corresponding section + \$100 of professional coaching + Trophy
2nd and 3rd place: trophies
All other participants will receive medals.

Prizes in the Other sections

1st place: Free entry to AB Jr. Championship corresponding section + \$100 of professional coaching + Trophy
2nd and 3rd place: trophies
All other participants will receive medals.