



Alberta Chess Report



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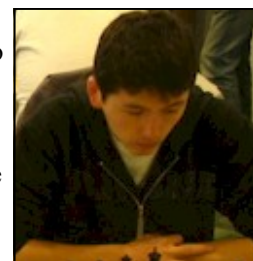
North wins Battle of Alberta

Another year, another battle. After the first round it looked like it would be a total blowout as the North took a four point lead going into the second half. In round two, the South struck first when Eric Hansen blitz'd IM Porper to split their match in the shortest (on the clock) game of the battle. It went down to the last game where the South could have won depending on the result. Warning, this report tends to get a little graphic, reader discretion required. Get the whole story starting on page 11.



Hansen wins Alberta Open

Is it just me, or is Hansen winning everything in site. Going into the final round, Greg Huber had the lead by a half point. By the end of the round he had finished second, a half point behind Hansen. In the end, nobody qualified to the 2009 Alberta Closed. Both Greg and the Rocket annotate in this edition of the ACR. Page 5



Junior Battle of Alberta

The North may have won the Battle of Alberta, but the South dropped a bomb on the North in the Junior Battle! Red Deer was once again the site of this annual event. Nineteen Northern players vs. eighteen Southern players, and the final score was 76-11 in favor of the South! Bruce Thomas provides a brief report on page 17.

World Junior Chess Championship in Vietnam

Its more than half way around the world, and the sweat was a noticeable factor at the World Junior Chess Championship held recently in Vietnam. Two Albertans made the trek, and left their permanent mark. Eric Hansen tied for second, placing fifth on tie-break to help lift the Canadian Open 16 division to silver. Calgary's Regina Veronicka Kalaydina finished twenty third on tie-breaks in a field of seventy-two! Details on page 10.



Chess for the troops

Bruce Thomas reports on this ACA program which provided Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan with chess equipment for the troops, and civilians. Major Regis Bellemare who is stationed at the Kandahar Air Field is a former president of the military chess team who attended the NATO Chess Championship in the past. Bruce got the idea for this program from his son Derek who saw a photo in the Edmonton Journal of soldiers playing chess with cardboard pieces. Story on page 3.





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The Alberta Chess Association in partnership with the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, provides a more active lifestyle to Albertans by providing programs to enhance living through playing chess. The ACA greatly acknowledges the support provided by ASRPWF

ACA 2008 AGM

The 2008 AGM was held on Sunday, October 12 between rounds three and four of the Alberta Open in Calgary. Elections were held and the new executive is listed to the left of this article. Tim Pradzinski had decided to step down as ACA Treasurer and so this position was up for election. Both Aaron Sequillion and Richard Pua decided to run, with Richard winning the vote. This position will be filled for one year until the next AGM in Edmonton 2009. The ACA would like to thank Tim for his hard work over the past year. Tim had managed to get our books in good shape which will make for a very smooth transition to the new Treasurer. The Treasurer position is possibly the most demanding position on the Board as it requires constant monitoring our our bank accounts, the writing of cheques to maintain our programs, and a considerable amount of corre-

spondence with other Board members, ACA members, the CFC office, and the list goes on. We welcome Richard in this capacity. Micah Hughey will repeat as Vice President. Micah was acclaimed Vice President as there were no other candidates. Our new Secretary is Rick Pedersen who was also acclaimed. New Directors are; Geoff Newton of Lacombe, Aaron Sequillion of Edmonton, Tom McKay of Calgary, and Kent Karapita of Lethbridge. Kent's position will be for one year. Dale Haessel will repeat his position as Director for two more years. Directors' Jim Daniluk, Anastasia Kazakevich, Vlad Rekhson and Kent Karapita will be up for election at the 2009 AGM in 2009, as will the President and Treasurer. Good luck to the incoming Board of Directors. It will be a challenging and interesting year with some interesting projects in the works, the most notable being the 2009 Canadian Open. View the new executive on the left side of this page. The minutes

Dale Haessel receives FM title, Hansen also qualifies

After doing the legwork himself, Dale Haessel has received the FM title from FIDE. Dale had met the requirements for the title as far back as the 1990's but the title was never applied for until recently. Dale received his title in early September. Congratulations Dale on this well deserved achievement. Eric Hansen has also earned the FM title, and the application has been submitted to FIDE for approval. Eric had a long summer of chess and put in solid performances at the World Open in Philadelphia, New England Masters, and the Canadian Open. Eric should have his title by January 2009.

**NEXT ACA BOARD MEETING
SUNDAY, NOV 30, 2008, 10 A.M.
RED DEER COLLEGE
100 COLLEGE BLVD, ROOM 201**



ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

Effective from December 1, 2008, the ACR will be published every two months. Deadline for submissions and changes is two weeks prior to the month of publication. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they pertain to the province of Alberta. Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited. Submit your request by email to: tficzere@telus.net or fax to: 403-568-7178 To speak to the editor, call 403.971.2437. If you wish to receive the ACR by email, let me know be emailing tficzere@telus.net Editor: Tony Ficzere, 58 Martin Crossing Court NE, Calgary, AB, T3J 3P3

Chess for the troops in Afghanistan

By Bruce Thomas

In the early fall of 2007, Derek Thomas saw a photo in the Edmonton Journal of a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan playing on a crudely made chess board with cardboard pieces. He asked why the soldiers didn't have regular sets so they could enjoy chess more. So on Derek's behalf, I started making inquiries at the Edmonton garrison about the possibility of the Alberta chess community assisting with the provision of chess sets for the troops in Afghanistan.

The reaction I got was good ... most of the people I talked to supported the idea, but getting in touch with the right people who would arrange the logistics seemed impossible. Discussions with various people at the base also led to expanding ideas of holding chess lessons for military families at the base and the possibility of soldiers teaching chess to Afghan children. However, all my attempts kept bumping into problems connecting with military personnel who could actually do something or tell me what had to be done.

Right after Christmas, I finally connected with an officer who said he would help once he came back from vacation. But then in the days leading up to the Edmonton Chess Club anniversary weekend, I get a message from St. Albert from someone who wanted to play that weekend and mentioned he was in the military. It is hard to believe that this person ended up being Major Régis Bellemare who actually organized the Kandahar Base Chess Club and has been conducting chess tournaments involving not only Canadian soldiers but troops from other NATO coun-



Players from Afghan National Army & Canadian Forces

tries, plus he is trying to get Canada re-involved in NATO international chess tournaments. He has also provided sets for various soldier facilities around the base and forward camps, including to the camp where the soldier playing on the makeshift board was photographed! He's a real enthusiastic chess person from Quebec who is now a resident of St. Albert and will be getting involved in the Alberta chess community when his tour of duty finishes later this year. He has received a little help from the Quebec Chess Federation, mainly in the form of a few used sets and analog clocks. His weekly chess sessions are regularly attracting 17 soldiers and sometimes as high as 26 to 28. He actually had talked to his Afghan interpreters about chess for the Afghan civilians involved in the Kandahar operation.

The long and short of it is that Major Bellemare and I met the morning of January 18 and went over this whole proposal. He returned to Afghanistan on January 20, but gave me the necessary information to proceed and he will be in place to put this proposal to work in Afghanistan should the ACA accept this proposal (*The ACA has approved a budget for this program, ED*). Chess'n Math Association and a wholesale supplier of The Roving ChessNuts have already pledged their support for this project and will give price breaks on the items needed.

Here is the letter from Major Régis Bellemare, president of the KAF chess club;

When I arrived in Afghanistan working with the Afghan National Army, I quickly realised that Afghans like to play chess. The officers I was mentoring were very good chess players. At the same time, I saw a strong interest in chess from the troops. I started a chess club in KAF (Kandahar Air Field) camp in August and the club have not stopped growing since that. With more than 70 members from 8 countries (NATO military, civilian employees and Afghan military and interpreters), the

club is a success story and even made the news.

Now that the club is well established, I saw opportunities to make it grow for the troops (outside the wire) and even in the Afghan population as part of the reconstruction and education efforts. I also knew that my replacement (the next Canadian contingent is from Edmonton) would need support from a federation. This is why I was very happy to hear from Bruce Thomas that there was a project to support the troops and Afghanistan with chess.



Major Régis Bellemare

As the director of the Kandahar Chess Club, I know that this contribution from the Alberta Chess Association would be much appreciated and well used by the soldiers and Afghan civilians connected to the base or in the Canadian Reconstruction Efforts.

I will be making arrangements for the continuation of the chess club and programs with others who will look after it when my tour of duty ends. Also, as the former president and in charge of the military chess team going to the NATO chess championship, I will still be involved in military chess.

Thank you for your support. If you need more info, do not hesitate to e-mail me.

Major Régis Bellemare

14th Annual Medicine Hat Open

By Dr. Bill Taylor

For the second year in a row, the Medicine Hat Open took place on a warm, sunny weekend.



This allowed an opportunity for our GIANT wooden chess pieces, located at the Giant Chess Set Project in our downtown core, to make an appearance unthreatened by rain. Unfortunately, our September caretaker, David Brown was away, and the chess pieces remained in their storage shed, albeit accessible for viewing. I was delighted to be able to take our international junior participant, Ben Walter (from Mulhouse, France) and his parent supervisor down to see the set at noon on Sunday. Unseen and annoying distractions due to proximate construction have plagued our project this entire season. As readers of my annual report will recall, this project is broadly supported, and continues to enjoy the support of the Alberta Chess Association through its Board of Directors. For this, the Medicine Hat Chess Club and I are very grateful!

This year, we welcomed 13 participants. Our returning champion, Roy Yearwood was present, along with Bill Bentley and Tony Ficzer, all representing Calgary. It was nice to meet Tony, the ACA's new Executive Director. He provided ample assistance to myself in running the tournament, and assisting with pairings. We were pleased to welcome back the father and son pairing of Don and Keith MacKinnon from North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Keith was our winner in 2006, and finished second last year. Three of the usual Edmonton foursome in the way of John 'Mr. Power' Quiring, Steve Panteluk, and Stan Longson made the trip this year. Ford Wong, our esteemed ACA Past President did not make it as he had a date with Alice Cooper. Their participation is particularly gratifying to this TD. I was delighted to welcome Terry Chaisson, from Lloydminster, AB to our tournament for the first time. Medicine Hat was represented by myself, Jakov Zuna, and our current most accomplished local junior player, Jordan Schibler. Last, but not least, was our second international (and first off the North

American continent visitor in tournament history, Benjamin (Ben) Walter, a 15 year old junior player from Mulhouse, France. Based on his FIDE rating (1896) and tournament performance, he's clearly an accomplished player. He made the trip all the way from Red Deer, and he was in chess withdrawal and needed to satisfy his craving. Such is the lure of the Medicine Hat Open!

True to the 14 year tradition, no previous tournament winner has successfully defended their championship (the following year). Roy Yearwood had an underwhelming tournament performance, finished with 2.5/5. He lost to the eventual tournament winner, Keith MacKinnon in a closely fought 3rd round game. I thought that Keith might try for a perfect record (to match the performance of GM Alex Yermolinsky in 2004: 5/5), but he seemed content to accept a draw with his 5th round opponent Ben Walter. Ben, our talented French junior finished in second place with 3.5/5. The most exciting game that I witnessed was a round 4 pairing between John Quiring and Keith MacKinnon. John was clearly winning a relatively complicated late mid game position against Keith, but was desperately short of time and couldn't find the winning combination. John ultimately lost on time. Keith certainly dodged a bullet in this round, and in the post-game analysis, had no hesitation to mention his concerns about his position. Solidly in third place, in the "TOP" section were Bill Bentley and Tony Ficzer, who both finished with 3.5.

Prizes were awarded to the first place winner, Keith, who acquired a weighty Mexican (Aztec style) decorative chess set and some "clothing". Our second place winner, Ben, acquired a computer friendly backpack, a TD Canada Trust baseball hat, and a Montana's t-shirt. Both of these two youngsters also received "keeper" plaques commemorating their placing in our tournament. The third place winners in the Top sec-

tion, Bill Bentley and Tony Ficzer were amply rewarded with merchandise and gift cards. There was a three way tie for the first place in the "Bottom" section between Terry Chaisson, Steve Panteluk, and Jordan Schibler. They received a selection of merchandise for their accomplishments. In total, 6 of our 13 participants were awarded prizes.

Free coffee, assorted types of muffins, seedless grapes of two colours, and a plethora of various soft and hard candies/chocolates were again provided to participants, courtesy of the Medicine Hat Chess Club, Safeway, and the generous support of 51 local sponsors. We continued our Saturday night "Dessert and Drinks" social (once again featuring fresh, locally grown strawberries, whipped cream, ice cream; and a selection of soft drinks, fruit juices, and low alcoholic beverages) for the sixth consecutive year. Unfortunately, my traditional baklava supplier was not available to assist they year (Sorry Don!). As well, we again offered our popular "Lunch for a Buck" for the 11th straight year, on Sunday at noon. Because of a change in venue (this year's tournament took place in the Conference Room on the lower level of the Best Western Inn), my good wife, Margaret, was pressed into service. Lunch consisted of a variety of cheeses, tuna salad and/or egg salad sandwiches, and a delicious Minestrone pasta soup. Thanks to our sponsors, \$160 of merchandise was injected into the tournament prize fund, over and above the entry fees. This is the 10th 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.



Dr. Bill Taylor hard at work

2008 Alberta Open

By Tony Ficzer

Calgary was once again the stage for the Alberta Open. Jim Daniluk was the organizer of this event and had asked me if I would be willing to be TD. I haven't done any serious TD'ing in the past five years but you have to get the rust off somewhere, so it might as well be this tournament.

I was pleasantly surprised with the turnout this year. A total of 48 players from throughout Alberta registered along with a few from both BC and Saskatchewan. The internet certainly helps with advertising these days as its simple to do, and you can reach a wide audience. Advertisements were made in the ACR, CFC website, as well as the ACA website, and both the Edmonton & Calgary Yahoo news groups. Putting out the list of advanced entries certainly helped with creating a snowball effect as we had 40 pre-registered. Another 8 people registered just prior to first round. The first round did start 25 minutes late due to some technical problems which plagued me for the entire tournament. I don't pair by hand anymore as the computer is much faster and better at it than I am these days. My technical problems stemmed from the crashing of my chess laptop which has been faithful to me for a number of years. The crash happened the night before the first round, and I had to scramble a bit to get things onto my newer laptop. This wasn't difficult but my pairing program is older than the sun, having been created in 1989. Running a DOS program

on a Vista computer is not recommended! In any event, aside from bugs, the tournament went rather smoothly from a TD's perspective. For future events, myself and five other TD's across Canada will be using a new version of SwissSys which will enable TD's to simply submit two files to the CFC to upload into their new rating program without any data entry at all. This will greatly enhance the rating process for both TD's and the CFC.

As a little added bonus for this years' tournament, I decided to go out and collect door prizes. In my previous life, I was (still am actually) a salesman and so I used some of my contacts to make a donation towards the event. I was able to collect \$450 worth of merchandise to give out during the tournament which was greatly appreciated by the winners. Door prizes were given out by doing board draws for each round. The winner on the board drawn was allowed to go to the prize table and select from over a dozen prizes. You could only win one prize. Good thing, else Greg Huber would have won 3 times! I would like to take this time to thank the following for their generous donations to this years' tournament:

Shoppers Drug Mart Sunridge Mall
Shoppers Drug Mart North Hills
Shoppers Drug Mart Southcentre
Shoppers Drug Mart Marlborough
Rexall Drugs Mayland Heights
ChessMart (Edmonton)
Games People Play Inc. (Calgary)
Mark Wake Books (Calgary)
The first round held few surprises over the

board with the exceptions of Rob Gardner vs. Adam Harris which resulted in a draw, and Roy Yearwood vs. Yuekai Wang where the young Yuekai managed to win with the black pieces and overcome both Roy's experience and a 400 rating point deficit.

Round two went pretty much as expected. No major upsets this round and perfect scores were posted by Huber, Hansen, Victor Kaminski, MacKinnon, Haessel, and Robichaud.

Due to the AGM being held between the 3rd and 4th rounds, round 3 began an hour earlier to allow for the meeting. Computer problems still persisted however, this had no bearing on the players as everything started on time. Huber continued to point and MacKinnon kept pace. These were the only perfect scores after round 3.

The AGM started at 2 p.m. on this day. Details of the AGM can be found elsewhere in this issue of the ACR.

Round 4 saw some interesting chess. The games were tough and hard fought. Huber puts an end to MacKinnon's perfect score, but who would stop Huber? Hansen vs Hughey ended up in a draw! Rocket Rob keeps his near perfect score by defeating Victor Kaminski. Neven defeats Nguyen to climb into second with the Rocket.

Round 5 saw some interesting match-ups. Hansen was in a must win situation if he wanted to keep close to Huber. Hansen defeated Robichaud. Neven faced Huber and wrestled a half point from the undefeated Huber. Gardner vs. Hughey also ended in a draw. Micah was having an excellent tournament. Haessel also keeps close by defeating Brad Willis.

The top boards for round 6 were...

Bd 1 Huber vs. Hansen

Bd 2 Gardner vs. Haessel

Bd 3 MacKinnon vs. Neven

Bd 4 V Kaminski vs. Pradzinski

Tim Pradzinski had played above his rating for this tournament to find himself paired against Victor Kaminski in the final round. As well as he played, Victor outplayed him to take the full point.

MacKinnon vs. Neven also ended in a draw. MacKinnon keeps gaining in strength and much of this is due to his passion for the game. Living in Saskatchewan is tough on your chess as there are few opportunities.

Here are a couple of games with analysis from the tournament. Thanks to Greg Huber and Rob Gardner for their submissions.



The Gift table for the Alberta Open, AKA Huber's pantry

FM Huber, Greg (2347)
FM Elect Hansen, Eric (2355)
B23 2008 Alberta Open (Rnd 6)
Notes by FM Greg Huber

Since Halloween was approaching, I figured reliving the horror of this game would be appropriate...

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3

The next couple of moves see both sides trying to keep maximum flexibility until it's clear whether it will be an open or closed Sicilian. Though not as common as the ...Nc6/...g6 setups, black's ...e6/...a6 structure is quite flexible and may put white in unfamiliar territory.

2...e6 3.Nge2

Keeping both open and closed Sicilians as options for a few more moves.

3...a6 4.g3 b5

Black now has the option of ...b4 in many lines to temporarily kick the white N to a4. However, he needs to time it well otherwise it just commits black's pawns to a rigid structure and gives white levers like a3.

5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Nc6

6...Nf6 is likely more accurate, forcing white to decide immediately whether to defend the e-pawn with d3 and finally give up open-Sicilian options.

7.d3

Deciding on a type of closed Sicilian, though white's N's on c3/e2 sometimes end up stumbling over each other. 7.d4!? is more enterprising, when black might prefer his N's placed on d7 and f6 if he opts for a Scheveningen-style pawn structure with ...e6/...d6.

7...d6

With the center closed, black now has a harmonious development scheme with ...d6/...Qc7/...Nf6/...Be7, etc followed by eventual play in the center or queenside. White on the other hand has to be careful not to drift into a lifeless position with rote developing moves that don't fit with an overall plan.

8.Be3

This natural move, for example, accomplishes little when black has not fianchettoed (no Qd2/Bh6 ideas) and playing d4 eventually would just cost white a tempo. It also makes an eventual ...Nd4 more irritating since white can't play Nxd4 without getting forked. More ambitious would be 8.h3!?, intending g4, Ng3, and possible further kingside expansion.

8...Nf6

Developing while creating ...Ng4 ideas.

9.h3 Be7 10.f4 Qc7 11.Qe1?!

A very 'drifty' move, as it isn't at all clear whether the queen is better on f2 or d2 (or d1 for that matter). Especially since the Q may want to recapture on e2 after an eventual ...Nd4, resulting in loss of time. White is a bit leery about the natural g4 expansion since black hasn't committed his king yet.



11...e5!?

The start of an interesting plan to weaken white's control of the dark squares. I didn't realize what was going on until far too late...

12.Qf2 Nd4 13.Rac1?!

Natural but passive. 13.fxe5! dxe5 14.Nd5 fights for the initiative and highlights that both a8 and f7 are bit soft since black hasn't castled yet. 14...Bxd5 15.exd5 0-0 (15...Nxc2? 16.d6±) 16.Nc1!?!± prepares c3 and leaves the N/d4 a bit stranded.

13...b4 14.Nd5?!

A bit lazy, as I didn't feel like calculating all the forcing lines after the desirable 14.fxe5 instead 14.fxe5! dxe5 (14...bxc3?! was what turned me off 14.fxe5, but it turns out it isn't that great) 15.Bxd4! a bit surprising, but it leaves black with slightly screwy pawns (15.exf6?! Nxe2+ 16.Qxe2 Bxf6= guards the P/c3 and is fairly level) 15...cxd4 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.bxc3 dxc3 18.Rb1± black's B's aren't very effective, and the c3 pawn is a long-term weakness.) 15.Nd5 looks like a slight improvement on the game for white since the pawn that eventually lands on d5 will be passed rather than just a plug.

14...Nxe2+!?

Black continues with his plan of swapping as many of white's pieces as possible which control the dark squares.

15.Qxe2 Bxd5 16.exd5 exf4 17.Rxf4 0-0

Black now has the plan of ...Nd7, heading for e5 and also threatening ...Bg5 to swap

the B/e3 and leave white with a bad B/g2. If white is not alert to this danger (as in the game), things can go quite badly...

18.c4?

My initial intention was to try to attack on the kingside here, but the more I looked at it the more solid black seemed with his plan of ...Ne7, ... Bf6, ...g6, ...Bg7, ...Ne5, etc. So 18.c4 was kind of a 'safety-first' bail-out move to safeguard d5 and b2, but it voluntarily gives up even more dark-square control. 18.d4!∞ is much better, battling for both the initiative and dark-squares. I felt it was too 'loose', but it's far better than the solid but passive plan I used in the game.

18...Nd7!

Threatening ...Bg5 when the N/e5 will be a monster once dark-squared bishops are swapped.

19.h4

Guarding g5, but making a hole on g4. White's position is surprisingly brittle and difficult to play, whereas black's play is very natural and fluid.

19...Rae8 20.Qf2 Bf6 21.Be4 Be5

Black is already better, and white is very poorly coordinated.

22.Rf3 g6

Threatening ...f5, and forcing another reluctant kingside pawn advance by white.

23.g4 Bg7

Freeing e5 for the N where it will bother the soft P/g4.

24.Rg3?

Starting to get into time-trouble, white anticipates ...Ne5 but walks into ...Nf6 instead by releasing control of the f-file.

24...Nf6±

White's position is full of holes, and black has all sort of threats against g4, e4, and e3.

25.Bg2?

25.Qg2 is a better defence, but still very unpleasant.

25...h5!

Methodically pounding on g4 while keeping tension in the position to take advantage of white's time-pressure. 25...Rxc3 may objectively be better, but the simplifications give white a chance to survive the time-pressure 26.Qxe3 Nh5 27.Qf3 Nxg3 28.Qxg3 Bxb2+ should win for black, but at least white has some opposite-B dreams now.

26.gxh5 Nxh5 27.Rg4



27...Kh7!-+

Preparing ...f5 with fresh reinforcements. White is totally helpless for the rest of the game due to his exposed king, useless B/g2, weak dark squares, weak pawns, lack of counterplay, etc.

28.Re4 f5 29.Rxe8 Rxe8 30.Kh2 Qe7 31.Bg5 Qe5+ 32.Kh3 Bh6 33.Bxh6 Kxh6 34.Rf1 Kg7 35.b3 a5

A fun move to be able to play, highlighting that white has no useful moves.

36.Qf3?! g5!

Opening the h-file for a mating attack.

37.hxg5 Rh8 38.Qxf5 Qg3#

A very impressive game by Eric, and a well-deserved tournament win. **0-1**

Gardner, Rob (2218)

Haessel, Dale (2299)

A03 2008 Alberta Open (Rnd 6)

Notes by Rob Gardner

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 g6 4.Be2 Bg7

5.O-O Nc6 6.d3 e6

With this move, Black chose a less common path. I wondered whether Dale might have been trying to play a system against the Dutch (with colors reversed of course). When I looked in the database, I did not find that many examples of White playing this way against the Dutch.

7.e4 Nge7 8.c3

My previous game against Dale, in the Over 1800, had continued 8.Qe1. In that game, I concentrated on probing Black's kingside weaknesses at the expense of my queenside development. After one miscalculation, I was punished severely for my lack of development. In this game, I decided to make sure that I developed my queenside.

8...O-O 9.Be3 d4 10.Bf2 b5

My previous game against Dale also saw him play for queenside space with an early ...b5.

11.Qc2

Even though this invites Black to place a rook on c8, I wanted to reinforce c3 so that I could develop my queenside knight.

11...Bb7 12.Nbd2 Rc8 13.Nb3

My plan here was to aim to create a knight outpost on c5.

13...Na5 14.cxd4 cxd4 15.Nc5 b4

To prevent White from establishing control over c5 by playing b2-b4, Black occupies b4 with his own pawn.

16.Rac1

I had assumed that 16.Nxb7 Rxc2

17.Nxd8 Rxe2 would leave White unable to save his knight. However, White has 18.Bh4 and after 18...Re8 19.Rfc1 White can give up his b2-pawn to get in Rc7.

16...Qc7 17.Nxd4 Qxf4 18.Qa4 Nac6



This was an important moment in the game. I had several plausible choices here. Despite thinking for a long time, I missed my opponent's reply to the move I finally chose...

19.Nb5?

19.Ndx6 fxe6 20.Nxe6 was one option I thought about. After Black moves his queen, White can take the rook or perhaps even the bishop on g7. This continuation seemed doubled-edged to me. 19.g3 White pushes the Black queen away before deciding what to do about his knight. 19...Qb8 (or 19...Qh6). I even wondered about 19...Nxd4 20.gxf4 Nxe2+ 21.Kh1 Nxc1 22.Rxc1) 20.Nf3 Rfd8. Black meets White's threat of Nd7 while also fighting for control of d4. This position is complicated. I suspect that 19.Nf3 would have been White's best choice. Play might continue 19...Ba8 20. d4. I like White's centre enough to prefer White here (though this might reflect bias on my part). This line does not represent the sort of convincing tactic or big initiative that I had been hoping to find while I was considering my

options.

19...a6

How did I overlook Black's move? I suppose that I was preoccupied with how Black would meet the threat to his bishop and I never thought about Black replying with his own threat. It may also be that after getting frustrated looking at White's alternatives on move 19, I became hasty when my thoughts turned to 19.Nb5 and my first impression was favourable.

20.Nxb7 axb5 21.Qd1

Here I was trying to retreat to safety without dropping my knight. 21.Qxb5? Nd4 leaves White facing too many threats. 21...Nd4 Black threatens to win material by capturing on c1. I thought it was necessary to capture on d4 even though it meant grovelling.

22.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 23.Kh1

Lack of time was starting to become a factor here. I had under 10 minutes on my clock and Dale had less than 20 minutes (plus we had a 30 second increment per move).

23...Qb8

The endgame looks promising for Black here. 23...xc1 24.Qxc1 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Ra8 Black had doubled, isolated b-pawns, but at the moment, that seems to be helping him. 26.b3 Rxa2 Black's extra pawn is not so convincing by itself (due to Black's doubled b-pawn). However, Black's pieces are more active. The White bishop is under attack, White's rook must guard against back rank mate, and White has weak pawns that look vulnerable. If White eliminates the b3-pawn, Black's b4-pawn could become scary quickly.

24.Na5 Bxb2 25.Rb1

The disappearance of the b2-pawn makes the b-file a reasonable location for White's rook. The rook does eventually capture on b4.

25...Be5 26.h3 Qa7 27.Nb3

The knight finally makes it back to safety.

27...Qxa2

Black grabs a second pawn. However, after a period of passive defence, White is finally able to start some counterplay.

28.d4

As well as attacking the bishop (and limiting its mobility in the process), White opens a diagonal for his own bishop. The b-pawns look like a good target.

28...Rc2 29.Bf3

I played 29.Bf3 quickly, but White has an interesting defensive try here. 29.Ra1 Qxb3 30.Rf3 Qb2 31.Rb1 Qa2 32.Ra1 b3 (32... Rxe2 33. Rxa2 Rxa2 34. dxe5)

33.Rxa2 bxa2 34.Ra3 Rfc8 35.dxe5 b4 (Or 35...Rc1 36.Rxa2 Rxd1+ 37.Bxd1 Rc1 38.Rd2 Nc6) 36. Rxa2 (36. Ra7 Rc1 37.Rxa2 Rxd1+ 38.Bxd1 Rc1 39.Rd2 b3 40.Kh2 b2 41.Rxb2 Rxd1) 36... Rxa2 29...Rd8

Black continues to place his pieces aggressively.

30.Qd3 Bxd4

30...Rc3 31.Qxb5 Rxf3 32.Qxe5 Rxf1+ 33.Rxf1 Qxb3 34.Qf6 Rf8 35.Qxe7 Qd3 Black looks good but finding such lines when one has only a few minutes on the clock is not so easy. (Though maybe if your name is Hansen...)

31.Nxd4 Rd2 32.Qxb5 R2xd4 33.Rxb4

Black has swapped his doubled b-pawns for White's d-pawn. Also, a trade of minor pieces has left White with a bishop and Black with a knight. White's bishop might not look great at first, but it helps to keep White's position together. Not only does it protect White's pawns, it prevents an invasion by the Black rooks on d1. Meanwhile, Black's knight cannot easily be transferred to an aggressive post.

33...Rd2 34.Qg5 Nc6 35.Rb7

White is down a pawn, but posting his

pieces actively.

35...Qa6 36.Rbb1 Qa5 37.Rb5 Qa7

38.Rc1 Ne7 39.Rbc5 R2d7 40.h4

Both players were short of time by this point, and now Black has to deal with the advancing h-pawn.

40...Kg7 41.Qe5+ Kg8 42.Qg5 Kg7

43.Qe5+ Kg8

At this point, I realized that I could claim a draw by announcing that I intended to play 44.Qg5 to repeat the position for the third time. However, victory was worth much more prize money than a draw. Also, I knew that Dale hates drawing positions that had been favourable for him (which cost him earlier in the tournament in his game against Keith MacKinnon). I decided to see whether Dale would avoid repetition.

44.Qg5 Qa2 45.h5 Qd2

I had been hoping that Black would find a self-destructive way to avoid the repetition, and was a bit disappointed when Black found a good way to avoid the repetition.

46.Qf6 Qh6 47.Kg1 Qg7 48.Qf4

In the post-mortem, Huber and Hansen both thought that Black should have

played ...gxh5 at some point to lessen the danger to the Black king. It also creates a spot for the knight on g6.

48...Qd4+ 49.Kh1 Qd6 50.Qf6 Qd4

51.Re5 Qe3 52.Rf1 Nc6 53.Rg5 Qd3

54.h6



I miscalculated, but it worked out for me.

54...Qd4

I deliberately allowed Black to take my rook with check thinking that after 54...Qxf1+ 55.Kh2 Black would not be able to prevent checkmate. While I was waiting for Dale to move, it occurred to me that he could avoid mate with 55...Kf8 White still has a good move here, but I doubt that I would have been able to find it in time pressure. The computer points out 56.Rxg6. Now it is Black who would have to find a star move in time pressure.

56...Qa1 (56...hxc6 fails to 57.h7) 57.Qxa1 fxc6 58.Qf6+ Rf7 59.Qxe6. I presume that the correct result for the final position in this line is a draw (though it might require more accuracy from Black than White).

55.e5 Qh4+

After my recent scare about Black taking the rook on f1, I was now temporarily surprised to realize that he would take my h-pawn. After a brief gush of adrenalin, I realized that I could capture his knight.

56.Kg1 Qxh6 57.Bxc6

The rook on d7 is under attack, but it cannot move without leaving something undefended.

57...Rd1 58.Qxf7+ Kh8 59.Qf6+

In the post-mortem, Hansen wondered whether Black could struggle on with 59...Qg7. For instance, if queens were exchanged and Black managed to capture the e-pawn, would White have trouble making something out of his remaining pawn? Black could also see if White would blunder with 60.Qxe6? Qa7+ 61.Kh2 Rxf1 1-0

2008 Road Warrior Update

With only one event remaining on this years schedule, here are the standings for the Road Warrior for 2008. Only the top 15 are listed here.

Place	Warrior	Home	Points
1	Chris White	La Crete	35.0
2	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	30.5
3	Micah Hughey	Edmonton	21.5
4	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton	19.5
5	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie	18.0
6	Aaron Sequillion*	Edmonton/Calgary	16.5
7	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	16.5
8	Eric Hansen	Calgary	14.0
9	Rob Gardner	Edmonton	11.5
10	Steve Panteluk	Edmonton	11.0
11	Stan Longson	Edmonton	11.0
12	John Quiring	Edmonton	11.0
13	Terry Chaisson	Lloydminster	8.5
14	Nandor Tot	Calgary	8.0
15	David Miller	Grande Prairie	8.0



Chris White and Roy Yearwood have clinched 1st & 2nd place. Third place is still up for grabs if Tim Pradzinski feels like going to Edmonton to take part in the WBX tournament in December, the final tournament on the schedule. The "*" beside Aaron Sequillion is there because Aaron has moved to Calgary in November and received no points for his participation in the Southern Alberta Open. Visit www.albertachess.org for complete standings.



2009 Trumpeter Classic

www.gpchessclub.com

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An Alberta Chess Association Sponsored Event!



Where:



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

When:

Saturday, January 31, 2009
Sunday, February 1, 2009

\$700 Prize Fund

... plus Some Awesome Door Prizes!
(Prize Fund Based on 20 Entries)

Special Events This Year

Friday Night Speed Chess Tournament

Date: January 30, 2009 (Friday Night)
Time: 8:00 PM at the Sandman Hotel

Register: 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM (On Site)

Time Control: Game in 5 minutes

\$10 Entry Fee (\$200 Prize Fund Guaranteed)

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

This tournament will be limited to 10 players as this will be a Round Robin tournament.

Note: If more than 10 register, we will take the top 10 highest rated players.

\$35 Entry Fee

CFC Membership Required
(Can Be Purchased On Site)

FREE Entry to Defending Champ

Eric Hansen

5 Rounds, Swiss Pairing System

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes
+ 30 sec per move from move 1

Register: 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM
Saturday Morning (On Site)

Sat - Round 1 - 10:00 AM
Sat - Round 2 - 2:30 PM
Sat - Round 3 - 7:00 PM

Sun - Round 4 - 9:00 AM
Sun - Round 5 - 1:30 PM

Car Pool Cash Incentive Program

We have a new program this year inspired by Vlad Rekhson of Edmonton.

If you car pool with 3 or more chess players (who play in the Trumpeter Classic), the Grande Prairie Chess Society will help with the high cost of gasoline and snacks!

Edmonton - \$50 per car
Calgary - \$75 per car
Other cities must call (\$75 max per car)

For more info, call Tournament Organizer, Tim Pradzinski at (780) 518-2281

BEYOND ALBERTA

Take a look to see how Albertans are doing outside of the province in the rest of Canada and around the world.

Albertans at the WYCC

Canada scored its best result ever at the WJCC in Vietnam from October 21-30. The best Canadian performance was turned in by Eric Hansen of Calgary who tied for 2nd in total points in the Open 16 section, but after tie-breaks placed 5th in a field of 73 players. This is the best performance by a Canadian since Jeff Sarwer took the gold in the Open 10 back in 1986 at the tender age of 8. Eric finished with 8/11 and was playing top board in the last round, which he drew with gold metal winner IM Adhiban of India. Canada fielded 3 players in the Open 16 section (Lloyd Mai and Alex-

ander Martchenko from Ontario were the other two players) and took the Open 16 silver metal behind India, with Vietnam taking the bronze.

Regina Veronicka Kalaydina of Calgary also put in a great performance finishing with 6.5/11 in the Girls 12 section placing 23rd after tie-breaks in the 72 player field. This is an excellent result and we can expect even greater things from "Nicka" in the future.

Other notable Canadian performances were put in by Kelly Wang of Quebec who tied for 3rd in the Girls 8 section, and Jonah Lee of BC who tied for 6th in the Open 8 section.

Canada is gaining in strength as the years go by and should be able to improve on this impressive result in the years to come. Congratulations to both Eric and Nicka.

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JULY 11-18

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Donation Grant Program

Whether it's a donation of \$10 a month or \$100 a month, Albertans know the importance of charitable giving. In fact, Albertans are already some of the most giving and generous people anywhere, and it is through this giving that the Alberta government has developed the Community Spirit Program.

- Maximum donation grant is \$25,000 per year, with total donation grants not to exceed \$50,000 over three years.
- \$1,000 in eligible cash donations is required prior to applying for a donation grant.
- The donation grant can be used to support operations, programs and/or capital projects.

Donations must come from "individuals" and not from a business.

The donation grant will be calculated by dividing the program's available funds by the amount of eligible cash donations from individuals that have been received by eligible applicants. The donation grant will vary from year to year depending on the number of applications and value of donations, subject to an annual maximum of \$25,000 per organization or \$50,000 over three years.

The program has an annual application deadline date of December 31 and is based on cash donations from individual Albertans that have been raised over a 12 month period ending on the organization's year end date. Donations prior to January 1, 2007 will not be accepted.



The Alberta Chess Association is asking for your donation. You can make your donation at the club, or by mail. Cheques should be made payable to "The Alberta Chess Association" and in the notes section it should specify that the money is being donated towards the Community Spirit Program.

Please mail your cheques to Tony Ficzero, 58 Martin Crossing Court NE, Calgary, Alberta, T3J 3P3

For more info visit www.communityspiritprogram.ca

**Community
Spirit
Program**

2008 Battle of Alberta

By Tony Ficzer

In the peaceful city of Red Deer, situated on the river of the same name, midway between the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, the sun was shining. Children could be seen in the playgrounds on swings and slides, while their parents were shopping for goodies to be shared that night. Not one of them suspected that there was going to be a battle that day. Not one of them knew what horror lie ahead for the brave soldiers of the North and the South.

They say that if you walk along the banks of the Red Deer River in August, and sometimes even in September, if you listen close, you can hear the snap of a pawns' neck, or the cry of a knight slain.

The city takes its name from the Cree word *Was-ka-soo*, when translated means *elk river*. At least that is what they teach in the schools. I know what it really stands for. It stands for the colour of the river after the Battle of Alberta.

Red Deer provided the battleground for yet another chess bloodletting. The South were smug after their victory last year. They were confident that they could not be beaten. They had found the perfect perch for the trophy. They were its keeper. The team captain's for this years massacre were Micah Hughey for the North, and Jim Daniluk for the South. Team recruiting was fierce as the North team was able to enlist I.M. Edward Porper. On paper, the North had the strongest team and this would mark the first time (correct me if I am wrong) that an International Master would play in "The Battle".

I was TD for this edition of the battle. It had to be the easiest tournament I had ever done, no disputes, no prize money to distribute, just had to watch the games and submit the report. I like easy.

The teams were finalized almost a week prior to D-Day. On the morning of the battle, there were no substitutions. The North won the coin toss, the battle lines were drawn, and the fight was ready to begin.

Pawns could be heard screaming in the heads of those who lost them. Rooks gave their lives for Bishops, while Knight's forked their way over enemy lines. Oh the humanity! The North struck first blood when Grumic thrust his mighty sword into the young Thomas Kaminski in one of the bloodiest battles I have every witnessed.

This must have inspired the North as the Southern team fell victim, one by one, game by game. The next soldier to fall was Eric Hansen who went as far as giving up the exchange sac to fend off Porper, but it was to no avail. Southern man Huber managed to make peace with his Northern counterpart Pechenkin, the South still had a chance to save face. Haessel was wearing his recent FM metal of bravery and demonstrated just why he got it when he created an unstoppable pawn storm against Li. The south was still alive after all! The next southerner to fall was Captain Daniluk who appeared to fall on his own sword in his battle against Kazakevich. Victor Kaminski, in an effort to avenge the beheading of his younger brother played a complicated game against Northern Nic Haynes, but after a long and hard struggle could only resign in the wake of Nic's mating attack. Boik with Black, despite being a pawn down was able to hypnotize Luna in the endgame to claim victory. The young Zhang fought the good fight but ran into a wall in the endgame against Purewal. Vlad "the Impailer" Rekhson tried all of his weapons against Yearwood's 1...Nc6 but was unable to shake Roy in the end and had to settle for a draw. Neven was able to save a little dignity for the South when after move 79, Gardner was forced to resign. Willis and Karmali went 89 moves before they both decided enough was enough, draw agreed. In the last game

of the round, Kazmaier and Captain Hughey shook hands to split the point. After game 12 ended, a truce was struck, but only long enough for both armies to fill their empty bellies. The North had taken the first round with an overwhelming score of 8-4! Was this the end of the South? Captain Daniluk rallied his troops for the final surge. There only chance to keep the trophy on its lofty perch in Calgary would be to score eight points themselves in the final round. A tumultuous task to say the least.

The first game to end in the second round was Hansen vs. Porper. Hansen blitzed his moves while Porper kept pace. Hansen gave Porper a "French" lesson in record time for the full point. The south was fighting back. Hughey resigned in a position against Kazmaier that was better for him after only 20 moves to raise the brows and hopes of the southern team. Haynes and Victor Kaminski signed a peace treaty at move 20. The south was now only two points back and held realistic chances to draw the match and retain the trophy. Things were heating up. Kazakevich showed that she is in fact a material girl when her extra pawn was enough to defeat Captain Daniluk. Boik assassinated Luna when the later missed a tactic allowing Boik to crash the queenside castled black position. Zhang played very well with the black pieces and missed his chance against Purewal, so the two agreed to a draw. The

BD	NORTH		SOUTH
1	IM Edward Porper	1-1	Eric Hansen
2	Vladimir Pechenkin	.5-1.5	FM Greg Huber
3	Zhichao Li	1-1	FM Dale Haessel
4	Nic Haynes	1.5-.5	Victor Kaminski
5	Rob Gardner	0-2	Knut Neven
6	Micah Hughey	.5-1.5	Daniel Kazmaier
7	Vlad Rekhson	.5-1.5	Roy Yearwood
8	Andrew Boik	2-0	Jose Luna
9	Sasa Grumic	1-1	Thomas Kaminski
10	Anastasia Kazakevich	2-0	Jim Daniluk
11	Brad Willis	1.5-.5	Hafiz Karmali
12	Sardul Purewal	1.5-.5	David Zhang
NORTH TOTAL		13-11	SOUTH TOTAL

south was going down, but with seven games to finish there was ample opportunity for a climatic come from behind finish. Neven disarmed the Rocket by move 36 when Gardner resigned, being faced with mate in two. Pechenkin gave Huber his queen for a bishop, and a full point. Yearwood took the queen for his rooks against Rekhson where the later missed a shot that lost a rook and the game. With three games remaining, the south was only one point back. Now for the photo finish. Li exacted revenge against Haessel when Dale miscalculated in the endgame to allow Li to either queen his pawn, or win a piece. Thomas Kaminski came back from the dead to haunt Grumic. Sasha had the attack, sacked a bishop for a real scary position, but it wasn't enough as Thomas held on to win. Only one game remained and the score was tied. It was all up to Karmali vs. Willis. A draw would give the south the match and Karmali had white to boot. The queens came off early, and it looked like Karmali had a slight edge with the two bishops. Exchanges were made and Karmali was left with the classic bad bishop. Willis played flawless in the end to capture the full point and secure the match for the north.

Final score: North 13 South 11.



Most of the Northern team pictured here. Back: Andrew Boik, Rob Gardner, Vladimir Pechenkin, Vlad Rekhson, Nicholas Haynes, Zhichao Li. Front: Anastasia Kazakevich, Micah Hughey



The BOA Cup at the Calgary Chess Club until this past September

Kaminski,Victor (2294)
Haynes,Nicolas (2220)
A13 2008 Battle of Alberta (Rnd 1)
Notes by Nicholas Haynes

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 d5 4.b3 Be7 5.Bb2 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.0-0 b6 8.cxd5 Nxd5

8...ed 9.d4 did not appeal to me due to the isolated pawns that may arise.

9.a3 Bb7

Maybe 9.d4 was better, but if black plays carefully the position should be equal. Victor's choice leads to a more positional battle.

10.Qc2 Nd7 11.Rd1 Rc8 12.d3 Bf6

Up until this point, I didn't anticipate this kind of reverse Sicilian structure. Although objectively the position is probably equal, I knew that playing stereotyped moves could get me in trouble.

13.Nbd2 Qc7 14.Rac1 Qb8 15.Bf1 h6 16.Qb1 Rfd8 17.Nc4 b5

The first critical moment of the game. White should probably have played 17.d4 if he desired a technical game, or a quiet move to continue the positional battle. Nc4 was incorrect only because of the move that I played. The idea of course is to get a pawn to b4, and then, ideally, a knight to c3. White can do various things to prevent or discourage this, but Nc4 just gives me a

tempo to execute this plan.

18.Ncd2 b4 19.d4 bxa3

Instead of 19.d4, 19.Ne4 was preferable, when play might continue 19...Bxb2 20.Qxb2 f5 21.Ned2 and then 21...f4 or Nc3 with complicated play. After this I can maybe win a pawn.

20.Ba1 Nb4

I did look at 20.Bxa3 during the game, and lines such as 20...cd 21.ed Nc3 22.Rxc3 Bc4. Although my computer doesn't like this very much for white, I thought during the game that maybe white could get his exchange back this way. I don't know if 20...Nb4 is actually a good move, but 21.dc a2 would have been a nice queen trap, and that's about as far as I can calculate ahead.

21.Bc3 Nd5 22.Ba5 cxd4 23.exd4 Rf8

The complications after 23.Bxd8 Nc3 do not favour white.

24.Bb5 N7b6 25.Ne4 Nf4

An interesting move, but maybe something like 25...a6 was better objectively.

26.Nxf6+ gxf6 27.Ne1 Qd6

I guess 27.Ne1 just shows how difficult white's position is to play by now. Over the next few moves I just leave my a3 pawn be, and switch gears into a kingside attack.

28.d5 Bxd5

28.d5 was a very tough move to face. For one thing, I think we may have been down to my opponent having around 1 minute and playing on increments, and I had about 5. So seeing a move like 28.d5 is not an easy thing, because I had no idea what the follow up was going to be. I was going crazy trying to figure out the tactical idea. Objectively, I'm not sure if there is one, but it's a great move to put the pressure on me. Fortunately, I know I was alright after white's next move.

29.Bf1 Qe5 30.Qa1 Qg5

I liked this move from a psychological perspective. I can enter a better endgame here, but I have been playing very poorly recently, and it is interesting that I avoided the safe move here for one that leaves more room for error from a practical perspective.

31.g3 Bxb3 32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.Rb1 Bd5 34.Qxa3 Nc4 35.Bxc4



35... Nh3+

35...Nh3+ was a strong in-between move, so I can take the bishop back with check. One mistake that is very common at the club level is automatically recapturing a piece.

36.Kf1 Bxc4+ 37.Kg2 Nf4+ 38.Kg1 Ne2+ 39.Kg2



39... Nd4

Here I almost played 39. Qxa5, which shows you how well I can calculate.

40.Rd1 Bd5+ 41.f3 e5 42.Bd2 Qf5 43.g4 Qxg4+

White has been playing the on increments for awhile now, and although my technique wasn't perfect, I managed to not throw the win.

44.Kf2 Qh4+ 45.Kg2 Kh8 46.Qe3 Rg8+ 47.Kh1 Qh3 48.Qxh6+ Qxh6 49.Bxh6 Nxf3 0-1

I wish my Calgarian opponent and his comrades all the best in their chess endeavours, until we meet in Red Deer again of course.

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

November 22, 2008

#	Name	Rating
1	Porper, Eduard	2468
2	Hansen, Eric	2377
3	Gicev, Blagoj	2376
4	Huber, Gregory	2351
5	Reeve, Jeff	2334
6	Peter, Steven	2309
7	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2306
8	Kaminski, Victor	2301
9	Neven, Knut	2287
10	Haessel, Dale	2277
11	Gardner, Robert J.	2264
12	Haynes, Nicolas	2224
13	Schaeffer, Jonathan	2206
14	Hughey, Micah	2190
15	Grumic, Sasa	2174
16	Rekhson, Vladislav	2157
17	Kazakevich, Anastasia	2142
18	Nguyen, Kim	2140
19	Perron, Sean	2134
20	Robichaud, Martin	2132
21	Kaminski, Thomas	2103
22	Monaghan, Jim	2090
23	Purewal, Sardul	2080
24	Gluckie, Jamin	2080
25	Gorelik, Lev	2079
26	Willis, Bradley J.	2072
27	Yearwood, Roy	2070
28	Yam, Alex	2060
29	Mrugala, David	2048
30	Kuczaj, Chris	1997
31	Trikha, Ravi	1996
32	Tam, Erik	1993
33	Steele, Len C.	1984
34	Karmali, Hafiz	1975
35	Tot, Nandor	1975
36	MacIntosh, John J.	1974
37	Rusnell, Lorne	1966
38	Cacho, Belly	1957
39	Dean, Tim	1952
40	Zhang, David	1948

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

November 22, 2008

#	Name	Rating
1	Porper, Edward	2460
2	Hansen, Eric	2362
3	Peter, Steven	2264
4	Kaminski, Victor	2256
5	Reeve, Jeff	2247
6	Huber, Greg	2238
7	Haessel, Dale	2199
8	Neven, Knut	2179
9	Haynes, Nicolas	2148
10	Gardner, Rob	2134

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The Alberta Chess Association Annual General Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2008, 2 p.m. (Between rounds 3 & 4 of the Alberta Open)
Quality Inn, 2359 Banff Trail NW, Calgary

Attendance

President: Mike Sekuloff

Vice President: Micah Hughey

Treasurer: Tim Pradzinski

Director: Jim Daniluk

Director: Richard Pua

Director: Dale Haessel

Executive Director: Tony Ficzer (also ACA member)

ACA Members present: Rick Pedersen, Tom McKay, Kent Karapita, Geoff Newton, Roy Yearwood, Aaron Sequillion, Chris White, Bill Bentley, Paul Usselman

Call to Order and introduction of Officers – President Mike Sekuloff

The President, Mike Sekuloff called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Reading of the Minutes of the last AGM – Secretary (not present)

There were no minutes presented from the last AGM. Tim Pradzinski gave a recap of the minutes from his notes. Mike said Paul Viminitz was having health problems, and Tim stepped up to act as Treasurer and Secretary. Mike then read the members of the current board of directors.

President's Address – President Mike Sekuloff

Mike made an opening statement regarding our ASRPWF paperwork. We were behind but have now caught up on all reports that need to be filed with ASRPWF.

Mike announced that we need volunteers for the ACA. We need a treasurer as Tim is resigning.

Mike commented that the ACR is now online and will be published every 2 months.

Some people are having issues getting to the website, Mike thinks it may be an I.P. problem and is checking to see if he can fix the problem. The ECC can't access the site. Tony said there is a mirror site that is identical to the ACA site and members can go there until the problems are fixed.

Financial Report and Statement – Treasurer Tim Pradzinski

Tim let us know that when he took over the position one year ago, the books were not done for a couple of years. Tim worked to get things caught up and the books are now in good order after 200-300 hours of work. The 2007 financials were done on time and were submitted for review to ASRPWF which were approved.

The financials will appear in ACR.

Tim then gave a recap:

In 2007, ASRPWF gave us \$12,285. The same amount is expected for 2008.

In 2007, casino spending was \$76,000. This money paid for junior travel, and a variety of other ACA programs.

ACA associate memberships brought in \$600 in 2007.

Interest on GIC's generated \$1,300 for 2007

Tournament revenue is represented by entry fees which was \$11,535. All of this revenue is returned as prize fund.

Other revenues were \$306

There was \$102,004 revenue in total for 2007

Expenditures were as follows:

\$93,400 on tournaments, rural education, road warrior, GM Charbonneau, GM Yermolinski, GM Shabalov, Medicine Hat Giant Chess Set, junior travel to Canadian Open, CYCC.

We had a surplus of \$8,600 for 2007

In some years the ACA does not see casino revenue. 2009 is one of those years and we will not see any new casino revenues until the 2nd quarter of 2010. We have to tighten our belts.

2008 cheques: accounting is now set up, and updated.

We have business number

Tony Ficzero now ED

Tim announced that the Treasurer position is open. The treasurer gets a laptop to use which has the accounting package on it. The books should be easier to do now.

Current bank balance: \$20,492 (casino account).

General revenue account: \$73,798 (\$30,000 is reserved for ED's job).

Jim said we should hear about how much we raised from the last casino, in the next few days. Ford guesses about \$70,000 last casino.

Tim did a financial projection up until our next casino in 2010. Tim has also created a spreadsheet for use in meetings.

The Canadian Open bid was put in with request of \$60,000 from the ACA, which is a lot of money. If we gave that amount, we would run out of money before the ACA's next casino money came in. We could only operate a "bare bones" organization until then. Tim encouraged us to use his spreadsheet of projections. The projection shows we would be about \$5,000 short by the time our next casino money comes in.

Tim stated that TD's are not turning in financial statements from tournaments. We should start doing this going forward.

Tim made a recommendation that all ACA sponsored tournaments need financial statements after each event. These financials should be sent to the ACA Treasurer.

The ACA board has done a good job managing the money of the ACA, with lots of programs. Those days will be over if we support the Canadian open in 2009 with \$60,000. Fiscal responsibility needed, and careful examination is required.

Planning Committee Report – President Mike Sekuloff

Mike asked for Tony, our new E.D. to present this report. Tony went on to detail the outcome of the review meeting with ASRPWF. The meeting went very well, and all reporting is now up-to-date.

Presentation and Discussion of Plan – Membership Tony Ficzero

Tony gave a brief report on memberships. Our Associate members are now at 470 representing an increase of 12% over 2007. Adult memberships are healthy with 230. Adult memberships for 2006 at the same time were only 191.

Amendments to Bylaws -- Past President Ford Wong (not present)

Bylaw amendments tabled until next meeting.

Other Business

Kent Karapita asked if the Board has a replacement strategy for the new Board members. Some general discussion took place. The ACA has to be more assertive in Board members. It's hard to recruit new Board members.

Election of Officers and Directors

Vice President

Tom McKay nominated Micah Hughey, Jim Daniluk seconded. No other people volunteered or were nominated. The president declared **Micah Hughey** as Vice President by acclamation.

Roy expressed his displeasure on how ACA business is run, and that the ACA does not follow its own bylaws. Roy pointed out that the bylaws state that we should have representation from all parts of Alberta.

Treasurer

Nominations from the floor:

Jim Daniluk nominated Rick Pedersen

Rick doesn't know if he has the time. Some expressed their may be a conflict of interest, but after a brief review of Rick's current responsibilities it was found that there was no conflict of interest. (Rick is a CFC governor, and is Secretary of the ECC).

Rick declined the nomination

Tim Pradzinski nominated Aaron Sequillion.

Tim outlined the responsibilities to Aaron and those members in attendance.

Richard Pua volunteered to run as Treasurer.

With two candidates, the position was put to a vote by ballot. **Richard Pua** won the election. This will be a one year term, up for election in 2009. This leaves one more position vacant as Director.

Tim stated that he will help with the transition as much as possible.

Secretary

Mike explained the duties. The Secretary can vote and has to attend 4-5 meetings per year. Note the ED will be able to help with this position. The ED can't be on the board.

Nominations for secretary: Micah nominated Rick Pedersen, no other nominations were forthcoming.

Mike declared **Rick Pedersen** Secretary by acclamation.

Directors

Tim Pradzinski nominated Roy Yearwood (Calgary)

Roy Yearwood nominated **Geoff Newton** (Lacombe)

Micah Hughey nominated **Aaron Sequillion** (Edmonton, soon Calgary)

Tim Pradzinski nominated **Kent Karapita** (Lethbridge)

Jim Daniluk nominated **Dale Haessel** (Calgary)

Micah Hughey nominated **Tom McKay** (Calgary)

Roy stepped down as only five positions were needed. All nominations accepted.

Tim explained that some expenses are covered for members of the Board to attend the meetings.

Geoff Newton asked about support for new club in Red Deer. Tony said he would be willing to help re-establish a club in Red Deer.

Motion to adjourn, meeting closed at 2:57 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Tony Ficzer

Calgary Chess Club donates to Brazilian kids

By Tony Ficzer

In a gesture of goodwill, the Calgary Chess Club made a donation of a dozen chess sets, and one chess clock to a school located in a small village outside of Rio de Janeiro Brazil.

Jim Daniluk received an email from Leila Silveira looking for help in finding some new or used chess computers that she wanted to donate to the school where her brother teaches. When surfing the web, she discovered the Calgary Chess Club website, and emailed her request.

Incidentally, Leila is no stranger to Brazil. She was born in Rio, and spends her time as Director of Programming at Berg Adventures International out of Canmore. Her background is in whitewater kayaking, climber and traveler in remote regions worldwide (*places like Nepal, South America, Tanzania, Russia, and of course the Canadian Rockies*).

Leila sent in her request on Wednesday, October 1. She had little time as she was leaving for Brazil on the following Saturday. Jim went to work right away. By Friday, he had got together a dozen blue bag sets, and one analog chess clock with the approval of the Calgary Chess Club executive.

The village is located outside of Rio (*my apologies as I do not have the name of the village*) and is in a very poor area. The

school does not have a budget for anything outside of the bare essentials and most children attend just so they can get at least one good meal each day. Leila's brother was originally looking for chess computers, but will be more than happy to receive the sets on the children's behalf.

The equipment was presented to Leila on

Friday October 3 at the Calgary Chess Club. She expressed her sincere gratitude for the generous donation and said she would try to get some photos from the school with their new equipment.

A big thank you goes out to the Calgary Chess Club, and especially to Jim Daniluk who took the time to make this happen in such a short period of time. A small gesture that will go a long way to enrich the lives of those less fortunate.



Calgary Chess Club president Jim Daniluk presents Leila Silveira with chess equipment destined for Brazil

Junior Battle of Alberta

By Bruce Thomas

It was the largest ever Junior Battle of Alberta and it was the rubber match between North and South. It ended up being the most lop-sided of the three annual Battles as the 18 South players beat up on the 19 North players, 76-11! The Battle took place Saturday, October 25, in windy Red Deer and from the first games to finish to the last games to end, the South dominated in all four sections of play. Drawing on recent new arrivals to Calgary as well as some of its stronger regulars, the South team fielded a much more powerful team than the North and some of the sectional rounds ended up with shutouts for the South and the closest the North ever got to clinching a sectional round was a score of two wins and three losses.

Over/Under 1800

By Tony Ficzero

The annual Over/Under 1800 took place in Edmonton on August 30 & 31. A total of 26 players took part, 15 in the Over section, and 11 in the Under section. Anastasia Kazakevich was the organizer/TD for this year's edition. Dale Haessel went undefeated with 4/5 to take clear first in the Over section, followed by Keith MacKinnon and Roy Yearwood with 3.5/5. Vitaly Motuz built the picket fence on his way to first with an undefeated 5/5! Aaron Sequillion recovered from his loss to Vitaly to capture second with 3.5/5. George Sponga and Mike Zeggelaar split 3-4 place with 3/5.

2008 Alberta Junior

By Richard Pua

The Alberta Junior Championship was held at Edmonton Chess Club on November 1-2. A total of 15 players competed for the prize of representing Alberta at the next Canadian Junior. There were quite a few surprising results and fighting chess throughout. Richard Wang is the overall winner with a score of 4.5/5. David Zhang, YueKai Wang and Allan Wu tied for second with 3.5/5. Diwen Shi and Ryan Lacy shared first

prize U1600 with a score of 3/5. Congratulations to Richard Wang and I thank everyone for playing!

2008 Southern Alberta Open

By Juraj Pivovarov

The Southern Alberta Open on Nov 15th and 16th 2008, had a fantastic turnout of 34 players. Many came from out of town including North Battleford, Saskatoon, Lethbridge, Edmonton and Leduc. The 34 players was a record attendance since 2002 (when 36 attended.) This was pretty much the best attendance for the last 10 years. In fact, 34 is probably getting close to a maximum that we can support at the Calgary Chess Club location. One table had 3 boards crammed together, while others had a comfortable two games each. Thanks goes to Jim Daniluk for helping get the word out on newsgroups and websites. He did a fantastic job as the organizer, even staying at the site on Friday with Stephan Vasilev to set up the room. Saturday morning, everything was ready to go! Another nice attribute of the tournament was the wide range of ratings. There were players from the 1200's up into the 2200's, with a good uniform mix throughout. An even rating distribution is important so that all players can find opponents close to their rating range. This was certainly the case, as in the last round not a single game finished really early. All were tough fights, right down to the bottom boards. This may be a record, but FIVE players tied for 1st place with a score of 4.0/5. Rob Gardner won the tie-break in terms of earning a qualification spot in the prestigious Alberta Closed. Brothers Victor and Thomas Kaminski, Keith MacKinnon, and Jan Lazo all scored four as well. There was a total of \$800 in prizes awarded as follows

Open	\$400
U2000	\$150
U1800	\$150
U1600	\$105

The extra \$5 in the U1600 came from a cell phone going off. We announced at the start of the tournament that cell phone interruptions would be \$5 for the first offence, per player, and then a forfeit. Only one cell phone went off, and the \$5 was added to the prize money in that section.

Open (4 way tie)	
1st	Rob Gardner 4.0/5, \$100
	Victor Kaminski 4.0/5, \$100
	Thomas Kaminski 4.0/5, \$100
	Keith MacKinnon 4.0/5, \$100

U2000	
1st	Jan Lazo 4.0/5, \$90
2nd	Rick Pedersen 3.5/5, \$30
	Adam Harris 3.5/5, \$30

U1800	
1st	Bob Macfie 3.0/5, \$90
2nd	Mike Zeggelaar 2.5/5, \$20
	Samer Louise 2.5/5, \$20
	Shanker Raman 2.5/5, \$20

U1600	
1st	Nicka Kalaydina 2.5/5, \$75
2nd	Bronislaw Swiecicki 2.0/5, \$30

I tried to shush everyone as best as I could. Keep in mind if you were shushed (rudely) by me, that while you were playing I was shushing everyone else (equally rudely) on your behalf.

Thanks to the players for keeping the noise down quite well in general, and showing respect to all their fellow players. Excellent tournament - see you all again next year! Congratulations to the tournament winners, section leaders, and of course all players that came out.

PS. Unclaimed prizes for Bob Macfie, Bronislaw Swiecicki, and Shanker Raman and Samer Louise were left with Tony Ficzero. I accidentally paid Mike Zeggelaar \$30 for a two way tie, instead of \$20 for the actual 3 way tie. I hope you guys can work it out.

Tony Ficzero was kind enough to take over the submission of the event and the submission of the numerous memberships to the CFC. And thanks to Greg Huber for the two rides home!

Mackenzie County Experiment

By Tony Ficzero

Chris White of La Crete organized the first Mackenzie County Experiment Chess Tournament on October 3 & 4. The tournament had a total of eleven participants, eight of whom became members of the CFC!

Stan Fidler and Glen Peters tied for first/second with 4/5, with Abe A. Wiebe taking clear third with 3/5. The ACA hopes Chris can organize more tournaments in the future. Good work!

PROPOSED SCHOLASTIC EVENT!

Western Canadian Open Scholastic & Post Secondary Chess Championship

March 26—29, 2009 (to be confirmed)

Open to all players 20 years & younger throughout BC, Alberta, Sask., Manitoba

2 Sections: A Section: CFC Active rated & Chess n'Math rated, B Section: Novice & Unrated
(Novice is defined as Under 1200 CFC rating or Chess n'Math rating)

Format: 8 player sections, Double Round Robin (2 games per player per round)

Time Control: 1 hr + 30 second increment per player per round

Site: University of Calgary (room and building to be determined)

Prizes: 1st \$400, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100 in each section plus \$50 for each player who scores 8.5 pts.

Schedule	Entry Fee	Mail Entries to
March 26 Rnd 1 10:30 a.m. Rnd 2 4:30 p.m.	\$75 before January 15	Roy Yearwood
March 27 Rnd 3 10 a.m. Rnd 4 4:30 p.m.	\$100 January 16 to February 1	603 40th St.
March 28 Rnd 5 10 a.m. Rnd 6 4:30 p.m.	\$125 February 2 to February 28	Calgary AB T2A 6S1
March 29 Rnd 7 9 a.m.	\$150 March 1 to registration at site	(postmark determines date)

Closing Ceremonies Sunday, March 29 at 1 p.m.

Make cheques payable to Roy Yearwood

For more info, contact Roy by email at fredandorroy@live.ca or phone 403.830.4640

Website under construction. Visit www.albertachess.org for updates to this ad under Tournaments

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Funded by Play Chess Alberta

Academic & Chess Excellence Chess Scholarship

\$5,000

Open to all students age 21 or under throughout BC, Alberta, Sask, and Manitoba

Awarded in June & December each year

Given to applicants who fulfill the following requirements:

1. Must have academic performance of 80% or better in the year of application.
2. Must achieve a CFC or FIDE rating of 2400 or greater in the year of application.
3. Must at time of application be teaching a minimum of 5 students and provide us with your teaching program.
4. Must organize & have in operation a school chess club with at least 10 CFC members in the year of application.
5. Must organize at least 2 CFC rated events in the year of application.
6. Must write a weekly or by-weekly chess column in their school newspaper in the year of application.
7. Must participate in at least 4 of the following tournaments:
Alberta Open, Northern Alberta Open, Southern Alberta Open, Medicine Hat Open, Alberta Junior, Alberta Closed, Alberta Over/Under 1800 (for players outside of Alberta and Sask, contact Roy for details on this condition).

For more info, contact Roy Yearwood in writing at
603 40th St., Calgary AB T2A 6S1 or email fredandorroy@live.ca

Website under construction

WBX Team Tournament

December 13, 14, 2008

Edmonton Chess Club, #204 10840-124 St

Three players per team (one substitute per team is allowed)

The average rating of the team playing in every round cannot exceed 1900!

Entry Fee: \$75 per team

The captain is expected to collect and submit the team entry fee. CFC membership required and can be purchased at site. An additional \$10 will be charged per non-CFC member of a team

Discounts: A team will have a \$5 discount per junior (18 and younger) player in its roster

Teams with FIDE titled players (GM, IM, FM) will receive a \$25 discount

FIDE titled players must play in at least 3 games to be eligible for the discount

Format: 5 Round Swiss (with sufficient number of teams)

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increments

Time of Rounds: Saturday, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. (or ASAP after Rnd 4)

Prizes: 100% of entry fees. Class prizes will be available

Before you register a team please make sure that you read the full regulations!

Team Regulations

How do I join a team? It's easy, ask a few people around the club, or just chess players that you know, make sure that your team is within the tournament's regulations, decide on who will be the captain and let Vlad know!

Maximum Ratings: Each team must have an average rating of 1900 or less in each round. To figure out your team average per round, simply add the three ratings together and divide by three. If this number is 1900 or less, your team is "legal".

Which rating period will be used? The CFC rating at the time of the official registration will be used. So if a team registers in October but the average rating of its members rises by December, they are still eligible.

Will the CFC ratings be used? Yes, unless the individual doesn't have a CFC rating. In that case the determination of the rating will be up to the organizer.

Who will I get to play? Teams will have pre-determined board orders. Then in each match the first board will play the first board of the other team. Second, against the second board of the other team, and third against the third. The board order will not change during the event. Board order will generally be based on ratings, however, the teams can change two players that are within 100 points of each other as long as its done before the event. For example board 1 can be 1750 while board 2 would be 1825, however, if board 1 is 1750 board 2 can't be 1875.

What are the duties of the team captain? The team captain will be responsible for all communications with the tournament organizer. That will include: determining who will be on a team in each round, making any kind of appeals, and paying the entry fee. The team captain can also advise team members regarding draw offers. If a member of a team is offered a draw a team captain can be consulted and his answer can only be yes, no, or no response (The answer has to be made without looking at the position as the decision will be based solely on the needs of the team). The team captain will also be responsible for determining the team name.

What if I can't find a team? It is advisable for individuals to try and organize their own teams (It's also a lot more fun that way), however if you absolutely can't find players to play with you may contact the organizer.

How to contact the organizer? Please email me at vrekhsn@yahoo.ca with any requests.

Vlad Rekhson

2008 WBX Team Tournament Organizer

This is a registered *Road Warrior* event!



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WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN ALBERTA!

For corrections, changes or additions to this listing, email tficzere@telus.net

<p>Calgary Chess Club #274, 3359-27th St. NE (Parma Tech Centre, North Building) Tuesday nights from 6:30-11 p.m. Friday nights from 6:30-11 p.m. Phone 403.264.9498 Website: www.calgarychess.com</p>	<p>Grand Prairie Chess Club 1st Apostolic Church, 9932 91 Ave Tuesdays from 6-10 p.m. Contact: Tim Pradzinski 780.518.2281 Email database@telusplanet.net Website: www.gpchessclub.com</p>	<p>Okotoks Chess Club Contact: Richard Bradley Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Calgary Junior Chess Club #274, 3359-27th St. NE (Parma Tech Centre, North Building) Contact: Simon Ong Email: simong89@yahoo.ca Website: www.geocities.com/calgarychess4juniors/home.html</p>	<p>Hanna Chess Club United Church on Centre St. Contact Jon, 403.854.3412</p>	<p>Sherwood Park Second Cup on Baseline Road Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to closing time Contact: Les Jones, 780.467.7393</p>
<p>University of Calgary Chess Club Contact: Adie Email: chess@ucalgary.ca</p>	<p>Hinton Queen's Bakery and Café, 124 Market St. Contact: Peter Bundscherer, 780.865.5050</p>	<p>Wainwright Chess Club Showtime Video, #701 10 Main St. Thursdays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact: Allen Tinio, 780.842.4123 Email: amtinio@telus.net</p>
<p>Edmonton Chess Club #204, 10840-124 St. Mondays & Thursdays, 7-11 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Phone 780. 424.0283 Website: edmontonchessclub.org/</p>	<p>Lethbridge Contact: Kent Karapita Email: kentkarapita@hotmail.com</p>	<p>EDMONTON CASUAL CHESS For general information or if you are interested in setting up a new casual site in Northern Alberta. Contact: Bruce Thomas 780.474.2318 Email: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Edmonton Castle Downs Castledowns Public Library program room, 106 Lakeside Landing, 15379 Castle Downs Road Tuesdays 1-4:30 p.m. Casual chess - no clocks, no ratings; open to all ages, up to 16 players involved.</p>	<p>University of Lethbridge Contact: Thomas Fox Email: thomas.fox@uleth.ca Website: people.uleth.ca/~chess.club/</p>	<p>Edmonton-Blackspot Café 15120 Stony Plain Road Sundays, 2-10 p.m. Sets are available.</p>
<p>University of Alberta Student Union Building @ Avenue Pizza Restaurant/Lounge September through April (excluding Dec), Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Contact: Stephen Stone Email: StephenRStone@gmail.com Website: uachess.wetpaint.com/</p>	<p>Lloydminster Contact: Eugene, 780.875.6352</p>	<p>Edmonton-ChessMart 12015-76 St Open weekdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and some evenings and weekends. Casual games can be arranged and evaluation of players of all ages.</p>
<p>Medicine Hat Chess Club Southridge Village, 550 Spruce Way SE Mid September to mid June, Wednesdays, 7-10:30 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484 Email taylormw@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club 1015 3rd St. N.W. End of October to early March, Saturdays 1:30-4 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484 Email taylormw@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Edmonton-Millwoods Seniors Drop-in Centre inside Millwoods Town Centre Mall Thursdays, starting 1 p.m.</p>

2008-2009 ALBERTA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZER	LOCATION
Dec 13-14	WBX Team Tournament	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton
January 09 (TBC)	Schleinlich Memorial	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Jan 31-Feb 1 09	Trumpeter Classic	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie
February 09 (TBC)	Northern Alberta Open	Edmonton Chess Club	Edmonton
March 09 (TBC)	AYCC	Bruce Thomas	TBD

TBC-To Be Confirmed, TBD-To Be Determined. 2009 schedule will be determined at November 30 ACA Board Meeting.
Visit www.albertachess.org for updates