

Alberta Chess Report



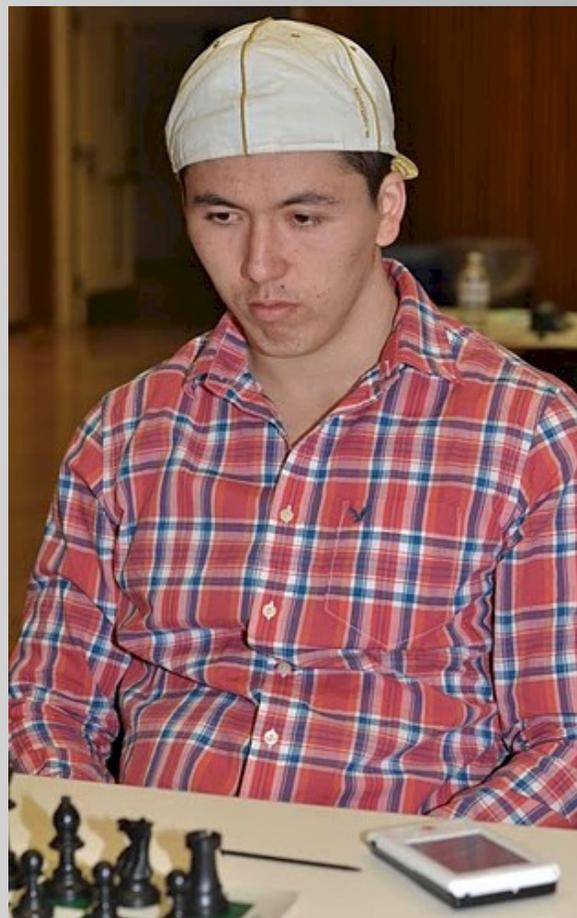
Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ June 2011

IM Hansen ties for 1st in Canadian Zonal

Just days before his 19th birthday, Eric finishes at the top in the Canadian Closed & Zonal in Guelph, Ontario. Eric went undefeated in the tournament but lost his 2nd tiebreak game against GM Sambuev

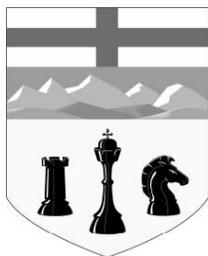
Alberta finishes 3rd in Canadian Chess Challenge

Our Alberta children made us proud by putting in the best performance by an Alberta team in the history of the Canadian Chess Challenge in Victoria BC this past May.



FM Haessel scores IM Norm at Calgary International

The purpose of the Calgary International is to provide norm opportunities for Calgary and other Alberta players. For the 3rd year in a row, someone has scored an IM norm. Dale Haessel got his with a last round draw with IM Enrico Sevillano



Alberta Chess Association

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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The ACR is published 5 times each year. Publication months are February, June, August, October and December. Contact the editor for submission deadlines and changes. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they relate to Alberta. Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited.

Submit your request by email to: vrekhsn@yahoo.ca

To speak to the editor, call toll free outside of Calgary 866.971.2437, in Calgary call 403.970.8032

Editor: Vlad Rekhson, #404-1913 11th Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, T3C 0N9

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

The ACR is printed by
Scope Printing & Publishing
12015 76th St. NW
Edmonton AB T5B 2C9
780-474-8929
780-479-8363

Alberta beats Quebec to claim third place at Canadian Chess Challenge in Victoria

By Bruce Thomas

This year's Alberta team at the National Chess Challenge missed the province's highest-ever score by a half point, but a match victory over Quebec on May 22 gave the team third place with 7 points, behind Ontario (9) and British Columbia (8).

Alberta's David Zhang became the National Grade 10 Champ with a 8.5/9 score. He had also won the National Scholastic Blitz Championship on May 21.

The players, their points and place within their grade level after all 9 rounds were finished on May 23, were:

Grade 1 Ian Zhao, 8, 2nd

Grade 2 Kaixin Wang, 6, 4th tiebreak

Grade 3 Patrick Tolentino, 6, 4th tiebreak

Grade 4 Andre Tolentino, 6.5, 4th tiebreak

Grade 5 Jakob Kaiser, 5, 5th

Grade 6 Diwen Shi, 6, 4th

Grade 7 Dennis Situ, 2.5, 7th

Grade 8 Yuekai Wang, 7.5, 2nd

Grade 9 Tony Cai, 5.5, tied for 4th

Grade 10 David Zhang, 8.5, 1st place

Grade 11 Jeff DeGuzman, 6.5, 3rd

Grade 12 Raymond Ong, 3; 6th

Looking after the team and helping with the tournament in Victoria, B.C., were Simon Ong, Angelo Tolentino and Alexander Kaiser.

2011 Canadian Chess Challenge - Team Crosstable																					
	ON	BC	AB	QC	MB	SK	NL	NB	NS	PE	Totals										
ON		6.5	1	9.5	1	7.5	1	10.5	1	11.5	1	11.5	1	11	1	11	1	12	1	89	9
BC	5.5	0		7.5	1	9.5	1	9	1	8.5	1	10.5	1	9.5	1	10.5	1	12	1	82.5	8
AB	2.5	0	4.5	0		6.5	1	9.5	1	6.5	1	10.5	1	9.5	1	10	1	11.5	1	71	7
QC	4.5	0	2.5	0	5.5	0		6.5	1	10	1	11	1	10.5	1	11	1	12	1	73.5	6
MB	1.5	0	3	0	2.5	0	5.5	0		7.5	1	9.5	1	7.5	1	10	1	10.5	1	57.5	5
SK	0.5	0	3.5	0	5.5	0	2	0	4.5	0		6.5	1	10	1	8.5	1	8.5	1	49.5	4
NL	2.5	0	1.5	0	1.5	0	1	0	2.5	0	5.5	0		8.5	1	9	1	10.5	1	42.5	3
NB	1	0	2.5	0	2.5	0	1.5	0	4.5	0	2	0	3.5	0		8.5	1	9	1	35	2
NS	1	0	1.5	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	3.5	0	3	0	3.5	0		7	1	24.5	1
PE	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	1.5	0	3.5	0	1.5	0	3	0	5	0		15	0



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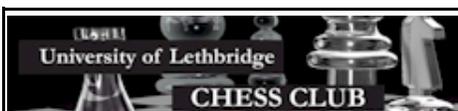


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**University of Lethbridge
Chess Club**

Contact Thomas Fox

Email

chess.club@uleth.ca

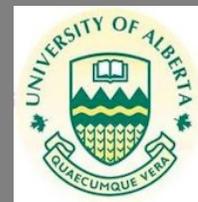
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- ◇ All skill levels welcome to attend!
- ◇ Blitz once each month in CAB 373 or 369

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



2011 Northern Alberta Open

By Vlad Rekhson

For a number of years, the Northern Alberta Open has been one of the best attended events on the ACA schedule. This year the attendance has dipped a bit, but 37 participants is certainly not something to sneeze at. The reason for the lower attendance is actually quite obvious; this was the third consecutive weekend that Edmonton hosted a weekend event; following the University Battle of Alberta and the Alberta Youth Championship (both events had 30+ participants as well).

The tournament was run by the dynamic duo of: Anastasia Kazakevich (TD) and Rick Pedersen (Organizer). The event ran smoothly and no major incidents occurred to everyone's delight.



2011 NAO winners (from left to right) NM Richard Wang, NM Nic Haynes, FM Vladimir Pechenkin and Rob McCullough

A special acknowledgement has to be given to those who braved the cold weather and travelled to Edmonton from Calgary, Grande-Prairie, Saskatchewan and in the case of NM Jonathan Zaczek; Winnipeg, Manitoba!

The tournament was closely contested. Heading into the final round, there were three leaders; NMs Richard Wang, Nic Haynes and Jonathan Zaczek with 3.5/4 each. They were closely followed by: FM Vladimir Pechenkin, NM Keith Mackinnon, Rick Pedersen and Rob McCullough (who just outplayed NM Roy Yearwood in a rook endgame). Last round's pairings featured, NM Wang against NM Haynes, FM Pechenkin against NM Zaczek, Pedersen against NM Mackinnon and yours truly (who had 2.5 points) against McCullough. Wang and Haynes did not waste too much time and agreed to a fairly quick draw. Now, only

Zaczek could get ahead of them, but Vladimir Pechenkin would have none of that as he confidently outplayed Jonathan in a positional style tying for the lead. Pedersen and Mackinnon agreed to a draw in what looked like a better position for Rick, while I was completely outplayed by Rob McCullough, who unexpectedly tied for first! In the end the tournament winners with 4/5 were: NM Richard Wang, FM Vladimir Pechenkin, NM Nic Haynes and Rob McCullough. Richard had the best tie break of the four earning the 12 year old his first ever appearance at the upcoming Alberta Closed Championship!

2011 Northern Alberta Open (3)
White: Mackinnon, Keith (2351)
Black: Wang, Richard (2266)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

I played the Sicilian Dragon against Keith again. We played this variation two times before, with a score of one loss and one draw for me.

6.Be3

Deviating from our previous game, which continued 6.Bc4 Nc6?! 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Ng4 9.e6 f5, with a very unclear game. White has a pawn on e6, but it's up to him to decide whether or not it's a weakness or an asset. However, 6.Be3 is the main line.

6...Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Bd7

8...0-0 is obviously the principled move here. 8...Bd7 aims to delay castling for as long as possible until the kingside is locked up. This idea had been played by very strong players, including Tiviakov and Mestel.

9.0-0 Rc8 10.g4 Ne5 11.h4 h5

12.g5 Nh7

The point of Black's idea. The kingside is now relatively locked up to be safe enough to castle, and Black has a strong knight on e5.

13.Kb1

White has two alternatives in this position, 13 Be2 and 13.f4. The most popular move in this position is to play 13.f4 immediately. After 13.f4 Ng4, White can decide if he wants to keep the bishop pair or not. 13.Be2 is also played, aiming to immediately exchange the Black knight when it comes to g4. After 13...0-0 14.f4 Ng4 15.Bxg4 Bxg4 16.Rdf1 Nf8 17.Nd5 Nd7 18.f5 e6! Black eventually won in *Fernandez Garcia J, L – Tiviakov, S* 2004.

13... 0-0 14. f4 Ng4 15. Bg1

It was also possible to play 15.Bh3, giving up the bishop pair.

15...Re8?!

Creating a square for the knight on h7 to hop to, but this is a dubious move. It seems like the only move played here is 15...e5!? With this move, Black breaks up the threatening pawn on f4 and aims for attacking chances, at the cost of a weak d-pawn.

16. Be2 Nf8 17.Rf1 a6?

At this point in the game, I wasn't really sure what my plan was. White already looks better, since all my pieces are crammed on the first two ranks. My initial plan was to play 17...Qa5, but I then realized that 18.f5 Ne5 19.Nb3! basically ends all my counterplay by forcing my queen back. According to Deep Fritz 11, my best move here is 17...e5 18.Ndb5 exf4 19.Nxd6 Be6, trying to confuse matters. 17...a6 is a bad move. It's pretty much a waste of time, and it creates a hole on b6 that a minor piece may jump to.

18.f5 Ne5

Fritz's recommendation is to play 18...a5, but no human would want to open the h-file for the rook after 19.Bxg4.

19.Be3

During the game, I thought that White would play 19.Nd5 immediately, where I planned to reply with 19...e6. White wins after 20.Nf6+! Bxf6 21.fxe6! Bg7 22.gxf7+ Nxf7 23.Bxh5 (Fritz found this line). 19.Be3 also should win. In fact, White has such an overwhelming advantage that he can afford to play a move such as 19.Ka1 and still have an advantage of 1.66 according to Fritz.



19...Bc6?

I create a square on d7 to jump to with my knight, but this move weakens the light squares of the kingside.

20. Rhg1

Moving the rook away from the long diagonal.

20...b5

In this position, I was already basically admitting my defeat. I tried a last push; partly because I wanted some counterplay and partly because I had nothing else to do. This move, however, weakens my light squares even further, as now c6 may soon prove to be weak.

21.Nxc6

White takes this opportunity to snag my light-square bishop, making my position the ever more loose.

21...Rxc6 22.Nd5

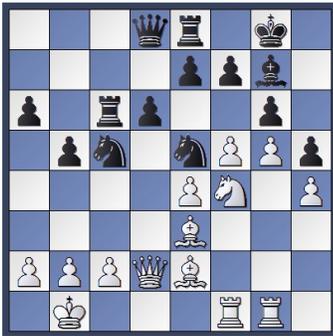
The knight lands in the centre of the board with a strong affect. Black's pieces are paralyzed while White has all the play he needs.

22...Nfd7

Hoping to re-route my knight to c5, but this loses due to the lack of control over the light-squares on the kingside.

23.Nf4 Nc5

Here, I was already thinking about how to delay the game further. The only way I can achieve equality is if White takes the knight on c5 with his bishop.

**24.Bxc5??**

Unbelievable! With one move, White completely throws away his +2 advantage and Black is able to redeem himself from his last ten positional blunders. White missed a win here with 24. fxc6! fxc6 25. Nxc6! Nxc6 26. Bxh5 (White must be careful to avoid 26. Qd5?? e6 27. Qxc6 Ne7! trapping the queen with a winning position for Black) and Black can resign.

24...dxc5

I happily take of the knight with my d-pawn. Let's take a look at this position. Black went from a position where he had

no counterplay at all with weak squares to a strong position where everything is covered. Black has a pawn initiative on the queenside, Black's rook on c6 fortifies g6, and Black's knight and bishop can soon be put to good use in attacking White's king. After this blunder, however, White then makes another one.

25.Nd5?? e6

Winning material. After the game, Keith told me that he was planning to play 25.Rd1 Rd6 26.Nd5, which would lead to a strong advantage for white. However, instead of 25...Rd6, Black can play 25...Qd4!

26. Ne7+

Keith finds a way to lose a pawn instead of a piece, but I can exchange queens, leading to a won endgame.

26...Qxe7 27.f6 Qd6 28.Qxd6 Rxd6 29.fxc7 Kxc7

More accurate was 29...Rd2

30.Kc1 Rd4 31.Rf4 Red8 32.Rgf1 R8d7 33.Re1 Nc6 34.Bf1 Ne5 35.Rf2 c4 36.b3 c3 37.a3 Rd2 0-1.**Edmonton Chess Club**

#204, 10840-124 St.



Mondays & Thursday

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Saturdays

1-5 p.m.

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Website

www.edmontonchessclub.org

Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Kent Karapita
Email

kentkarapita@hotmail.com

Medicine Hat Chess Club

Next Step Residential Services
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402 Maple Avenue SE

Wednesdays

mid-September to mid-June

Contact: Bill Taylor 403.526.5484

403.527.3574, taylorlrmw@shaw.ca

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

AS OF JUNE 15, 2011

1	Hansen, Eric	2596
2	Porper, Edward	2531
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2408
4	Gicev, Blagoj	2374
5	Wang, Richard	2346
6	Haynes, Nicolas	2315
7	Gardner, Robert J.	2306
8	Valencia, Belsar	2296
9	Haessel, Dale	2286
10	Yam, Alex	2285
11	Kazmaier, Daniel	2244
12	Neven, Knut	2235
13	Grumic, Sasa	2231
14	Kalisvaart, Peter	2217
15	Robichaud, Martin	2208
16	Yearwood, Roy	2203
17	Kaminski, Thomas	2182
18	Hughey, Micah	2181
19	Gold, Itohan	2175
20	Gluckie, Jamin	2156
21	Tot, Nandor	2119
22	Willis, Bradley J.	2094
23	Rekhson, Vladislav	2090
24	Purewal, Sardul	2081
25	Perron, Sean	2078
26	Tam, Erik	2077
27	Gorelik, Lev	2076
28	Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz	2058
29	Sequillion, Aaron	2057
30	Newton, Geoff	2050
31	Daniluk, Jim	2029
32	Beaudry, Lukas	2023
33	Pua, Richard	2012
34	Karmali, Hafiz	1999
35	Regimbald, Adrien	1996
36	Pedersen, Rick	1981
37	Pradzinski, Tim	1978
38	McKay, Arnold	1978
39	MacIntosh, John J.	1974
40	Razzaq, Ali	1974

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

AS OF MAY 1, 2011

1	Porper, Edward	2446
2	Hansen, Eric	2425
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2297
4	Wang, Richard	2219
5	Ristic, Nenad	2208
6	Yam, Alex	2191
7	Haessel, Dale R.	2184
8	Haynes, Nicolas	2174
9	Gardner, Robert	2163
10	Neven, Knut	2155

Calgary Chess Club News



were 1. Tony Ficzer, 2. Bill Bentley, 3. Frank Kluytmans. GP players were 1. David Miller, 2. Jim Roy, 3. Tim Pradzinski.

Congratulations to the GP Chess Club on their convincing victory. A rematch may be in the works.

University of Calgary Blitz Championship

March 27, 2011

Daniel Kazmaier reports that the UofC will be hosting this speed chess tournament on Saturday, April 9th. The event will take place at the University and is open to all players. Members of the UofC Chess Club can enter for \$5 while non-members pay \$10 (which includes the \$5 membership fee to the UofC Chess Club). New this time is the free lunch offered by the organizers!

2011 Calgary Closed and Reserves

March 29, 2011

Congratulations to IM Eric Hansen on winning the 2011 Calgary Closed. His opponent in the final round, Erik Tam, did not show so Eric won on forfeit. Eric went undefeated, scoring 6.5/7 to take clear first. Eric picks up \$125 in cash plus \$400 towards expenses to the tournament of his choice. Alex Yam finished alone in second with 5/7, drawing with Sean Perron in the final round from a slightly worse position. I think Alex called it the Yam Gambit!

Congratulations to Ivan Kornilo who finished on top in the Reserve Section with 5.5/7. Arthur Milne and Belly Cacho split the 2nd place prize at 5/7. Things might have been different had Diwen Shi not missed round 6. As it was, Diwen captured the Top U1700 prize with his undefeated 4.5/7 and he also won the Biggest Upset prize for his round 4 victory over Belly Cacho (350 pt difference). Tom McKay and Ted Borowski split the 2nd U1700 prize. Brady Jahraus won the Top U1500 prize with 3/7.

Grande Prairie defeats Calgary on the Internet

April 16, 2011

The Internet match between the Grande Prairie Chess Club and the Calgary Chess Club ended in a lopsided victory for GP. Initially, the match was to be over 4 boards, but Calgary could only field 3 players. In round 1, Calgary could only earn a half point with Tony Ficzer drawing with Alberta Junior Champion, David Miller. In the 2nd round, GP swept all 3 boards, giving them a final score of 5.5-0.5 in the six games. Calgary players

Art Milne wins April Active

April 19, 2011

Art Milne seems to be returning to his regular form. Art scored 4/5 to take clear first in this 5 round active event. Itohan Gold joined the tournament for the last 3 rounds, taking 2 half point byes. In the final round, Gold and Belly Cacho battled to a draw. Had one of those players won, they would have tied for first with Art. Gold and Cacho split the 2nd place prize. Chenxi Zhao captured Top U1700 with 3/5 and also won the Biggest Upset prize for his victory over Bill Bentley.

Calgary International Active Fundraiser #4

May 8, 2011

This event conflicted with the most important day of the year. As a result, only 9 brave players enlisted for the 4th of 5 Active fundraisers. Alex Yam surprised no-one by taking first, undefeated, scoring a perfect 5/5. Top U1800 was split between Mike Scholz and Zeling Li with 2/5. Frank Kluytmans won the Mother's Day prize and was awarded with a make-up kit and beauty products. Thanks to Deweese Wood and Frank Kluytmans for their help during the tournament.

Yam the man wins final CICC Active Fundraiser

May 15, 2011

In Calgary, if Hansen isn't playing, the most feared opponent is NM Alex Yam. He wins almost every event he enters in Alberta. He finished near the top of the crosstable in Victoria last month and earned a game against the tournaments top ranked player, GM Igor Rausis. Alex drew that game and went on to finish with 4.5/6 (tied with Rausis among others) for 3rd-10th. You can also add that Alex is only one of two people to defeat Hansen in the last 2 years in Canada, GM Charbonneau being the other. Diwen Shi also collected with pay cheque, finishing tied for 2nd with David Zhang (warming up for the Canadian Chess Challenge). Frank Kluytmans scored the biggest upset, defeating Roy Yearwood in the first round.

Huber Simul at Kawa Espresso Bar

May 15, 2011

While we didn't get 10 players as was hoped, we did manage to fill 6 boards for Greg to take on. Half were regular rated players, the other half were patrons of Kawa. Several others showed up throughout the evening in make the event quite enjoyable. It was good to see Stephen Peter come out among others.

Les, the owner of the coffee house was one of the players. He offered everyone free coffee or latte or any other beverage they wanted while they played. This is good coffee, a huge difference from your everyday Tim Horton's coffee. The music playing in the background is a rich mix of world rythums and eclectic modern. Seemed to fit right in. Some of the other patrons wondered by and asked questions as their curiosity was peeked. Greg had little trouble disposing of me in our game although I was better for a while, just couldn't bring home the full point. I thought I was winning, then towards the end, I blitzed myself into mate! Art Milne got a draw and Les was the only person to defeat Greg. It really was a fun evening and we need to do this more often.

Kawa has offered their place to us whenever we want. I am thinking of arranging chess meetings there on the last Sunday evening of every month. There will be no charge, just show up and play. Very friendly atmosphere. Thanks to Les for letting us take over Kawa and thanks to everyone who supported the event.



Alberta champs determined

By Bruce Thomas

Over 100 players, Grades 1 through 12 battled in Red Deer on April 9 for provincial champ titles for each grade.

The winners were: Grade 1 Ian Zhao, Grade 2: Kaixin Wang, Grade 3: Patrick Tolentino, Grade 4: Andre Tolentino Grade 5: Jakob Kaiser, Grade 6: Diwen Shi, Grade 7: Dennis Situ, Grade 8: Yuekai Wang, Grade 9: Tony Cai, Grade 10: David Zhang, Grade 11: Jeff DeGuzman, and Grade 12 Raymond Ong. (designates 2010 champ.)

While the majority of players came from Edmonton and region, Calgary saw an increase of entrants this year and Medicine Hat and Grand Prairie were represented.



Grade 1 AB Chess Challenge Participants.
Courtesy Rovingchessnuts

Alberta Active

By Vlad Rekhson

A total of 18 players took part in this year's Alberta Active Championship. 14 came from Edmonton and 4 made a trip from Calgary. NM Nic Haynes and IM Edward Porper shared 1st place with 4/5 each. 3rd was shared by NM Belsar Valencia and Rick Pedersen with 3.5 each. The full standings can be viewed at: <http://www.albertachess.org/2011AAC.html>

I would like to thank TD Brad Willis who not only ran a very fine event, but also contributed over \$250 of his own money to help boost the prize fund and pay the ACA tournament dues.



A pretty funny thing happened in my 4th round game against ECC President

Terry Seehagen. I suffered my quickest tournament loss ever.

V. Rekhson (2090)

T. Seehagen (1800)

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.d4 exd5 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Nf3 Be6 7.Qb3 Nc6 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Na5 10.Qa4+ c6 11.cxd5 Bxd5 12.Be2 Bb3 0-1. (if 13. Qb4 then Nd5 14. Qc5 b6 and the queen is in a pretty prison).

I would like to thank all those who participated, even those who beat me!

Road Warrior Update



After 7 events Roy Yearwood from Calgary is in the lead with 19 points. He is followed closely by a new road warrior- Stephen Stone from Edmonton who has 17 points. Third and fourth place belong to representatives of the smaller communities. Paul Viminitz from Lethbridge has 12 points, while David Miller from Grande Prairie has 10.

This is a good time to congratulate last year's 1st place winner Chris White with a newborn baby girl! Something tells me that this year the first prize will go to someone else!

The 2011 road warrior prizes are: \$150 for first, \$100 for second and \$50 for third.

www.albertachess.org/Road_Warrior.html

#	Name	Place	Pts
1	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	19.0
2	Stephen Stone	Edmonton	17.0
3	Paul Viminitz	Lethbridge	12.0
4	David Miller	Grande Prairie	10.0
5	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	9.0
6	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	Edmonton	7.0
7	Micah Hughey	Edmonton	7.0
8	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie	7.0
9	Genevieve Stringham	Lethbridge	7.0
10	Gregory Holmes	Lethbridge	7.0
11	Tom Fox	Lethbridge	7.0
12	Yaroslav Ilnytsky	Lethbridge	7.0

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL

July 27 to August 1, 2011

Edmonton Chess Club

Organizer: Vladislav Rekhson

TD: Ali Razzaq

International Section

10 player round robin

IM norm opportunities guaranteed

By invitation only

Reserve Section

July 30-August 1.

Lectures and Simuls will be announced.

Games will be broadcast live via DGT

Watch the ACA website www.albertachess.org for updates



Alberta Chess Player Profile

"I am a big advocate of blitz chess online."

IM Eric Hansen



Eric is an 19 year old International Master from Calgary. He is currently the highest ranked Albertan according to CFC ratings with 2596 and the second highest according to FIDE with the rating of: 2425.

In 2010 Eric became the first ever Alberta resident to earn the title of an International Master title, while residing in the province. This interview was conducted in April, after that Eric managed a very impressive feat of 5/5 in the 2011 Alberta Championship. It had a strong field which included IM Porper and 3 other masters. He later backed it up by tying for first in the 2011 Canadian Closed earning a spot in the prestigious 2011 World Cup in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

Career highlights:

International Master: 2010

FIDE Master: 2008.

Canadian National Master: July, 2007.

Notable tournaments:

2011: Shared first, Canadian Closed/Zonal 7.5/9

2011: AB Championship 5/5!

2011: Calgary International 6/9 tied third.

2010 Calgary International 5.5/9 (tie for 5th) 3rd IM norm.

2009 Calgary International 5.5/9 (tie for 4th) 2nd IM norm.

2009 Alberta Closed Championship 4/5 tie for 1st.

2008 World Youth Chess Championship (Under 16) 8/11 (tie for 2nd, 5th on tie-break).

2008 World Open 5/9 first IM norm.

2008 Alberta Closed Championship 4/5 1st

place. (youngest champion ever at 15)

VR: When did you learn to play chess?

EH: Chess club, in Elementary school, I was around age 7. Nenad Ristovic was the teacher there.

VR: How long did you take lessons from him there?

EH: He taught me for a few years, it wasn't individual lessons just a big chess club that he ran.

VR: Would you say that coaching is essential during the early years of chess development or could someone just do it say, by playing and studying with a computer?

EH: I think you can reach higher levels than ever before without coaching, but it will take much longer. I think you are much better off investing in coaching if it is available, especially when you are young when you need more direction and lack proper training habits.

VR: What was your first memorable chess success?

EH: Sharing first place at the grade 3 Alberta provincials; I lost the playoff but the whole thing was unexpected. I was quite a casual player at the time.

VR: Did that inspire you to continue playing and improving in chess

EH: It got me a little more serious, yes.

VR: I remember that at certain point you went from being a talented junior to someone who simply destroyed almost everyone at least in this province you became a master virtually overnight, do you remember that change, or how you worked to accomplish that?

EH: Yes, that started to happen around the end of 2007. To be honest, I was a bit bored so I wasn't studying chess at all and so the string of results came as another surprise to me. I think it was a combination of my chess just maturing and all the games I had played on the internet and in tournaments before that.

VR: Speaking of internet chess, there is some controversy on that, some think that playing blitz or bullet online helps and others disagree. What is your opinion?

EH: I am a big advocate of blitz chess online. Even bullet. I would say that just from playing thousands of games of bullet chess, my tournament level increased from 1400-2000. And the main reason is pattern recognition, which is still there in the quick time controls if you seek it. It may not work for all players though, but the younger generation is developing faster because of internet chess. I mainly play blitz chess now, and it is quite helpful in

testing openings and ideas and the ability to play strong players which I can't in Calgary improves my overall strength. It's important to analyze your games too though.

VR: Of course, you didn't just play blitz as you travelled to many top American events in the past few years. How important was it playing in those events rather than in just local ones for your development?

EH: It was really important. I had the mindset that I wanted to play the best players possible and that I didn't mind losing and losing as long as I was learning from the games. It was all valuable experience. If I had just stayed in Alberta I wouldn't have been as ambitious and I also doubt I'd be near the level I've achieved. In Alberta the roof you can achieve is probably FM level before you have to start travelling and/or getting some extra help..

VR: In the last few years you achieved many great results, can you tell me which one you consider to be your greatest tournament to date?

EH: The one I am most proud of is probably Vietnam 2008. Relative to my rating, my performance was nothing special at all. But it was my first world youth championship and I just wanted to perform decent.. I had a very bad start of 2.5/5 considering I was seeded top 15, and then I got angry and turned it around and won 5 good in a row. The guys were mainly lower rated than me but there aren't any fish at the Worlds. I tied for second in the end and had the most enjoyable trip of my life and the thrill of fighting for the world championship on the big stage in front of over a thousand people was nerve wrecking but one I won't forget.

VR: It was a really memorable finish for you as you became the first ever Albertan to accomplish a tie for second in the world championship. Another memorable event at least for me was at the last year's Calgary International when you became an IM on your 18th birthday in your home town. How did that feel?

EH: I was just really relieved because I kept missing opportunities tournament after tournament to finish my title. I knew I was at the level but I just couldn't seem to do well under pressure. I collapsed in the 8th and 9 rounds numerous times when I was just an inch away. I was just very happy to get it over with.

VR: What do you consider to be the best game that you have ever played?

EH: I hope that it is yet to be played! But for now probably Kuljasevic (2555)-

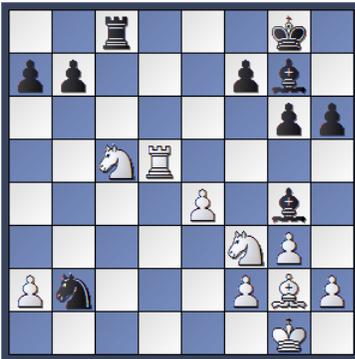
Hansen from the 2010 Spice Cup in Texas. He is the highest rated player that I have ever beaten.

2010 SPICE Spring Invitational Lubbock, TX (6), 17.03.2010

Kuljasevic,Davorin (2555)

Hansen, Eric (2415)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0
5.Bg2 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.e4
Nb6 9.d5 Na5 10.Nc3 c6 11.Bg5 h6
12.Bf4 cxd5 13.Nxd5 Nac4 14.Nc7 Rb8
15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.Rad1 Bg4 17.Nd5 e5
18.Nxb6 Rxd1 19.Rxd1 Nxb2 20.Bxe5
Bxe5 21.Rd5 Bg7 22.Nd7 Rc8 23.Nc5



23...Na4!! 24.h3 Nb6 25.Nxb7 Nxd5
26.exd5 Bd7 27.Nd2 Rc1+ 28.Kh2 Rc2
29.Nb3 Bf8 30.d6 Rxf2 0-1.

VR: Ok, we talked quite a bit about chess but besides it, what are your hobbies and interests?

EH: MMA, working out, languages, travelling, video games,

VR: So would you say that buying 8 McDonald's burgers at the same time is part of your chess training or body-building?

EH: I say it's a reward after my stressful chess game!

VR: What are some of your future plans?

EH: I'm a pretty indecisive person, I'm still not sure what I want to do exactly. But I plan to go to university in the fall for business and as for chess I'm trying to figure out if I want to keep investing as much time as I have. I may stop playing altogether, but I'd really like to achieve GM before I'd feel O.K. doing that.

VR: This is it for today. Thank you very much for your time and best of luck in the future.

EH: You are welcome. Any time!

2010 WBX Team Tournament

By Ali Razzaq

With 35 players played in 10 teams, WBX Team Tournament 2010 was a great tournament. The final round was exciting, 8 of 10 teams had a chance to won the place 1st to 3rd.

Congratulations to the team: Two Ricks and an Arnie: Average rating 1968 the WBX Team Tournament 2010 Champion with (10.5/15) , Name on the Trophy + \$330

Rick Pedersen (2000) 3/5

Richard Pua (1962) 3.5/5

Arnold McKay (1943) 4/5

Tied for 2nd place with (10/15), \$150 each:

The Road Warriors: Average rating 1999

Peter Kalisvaart (2203) 3/5

Ali Razzaq (1996) 3.5/5

Phil Holmstrom (1799) 3.5/5

The Sponganators: Average rating 1962

Nic Haynes (2280) 4/5

Damon MacLeod (1862) 2/5

George Sponga (1745) 4/5

Other teams scores:

The Knights of Nie: Average rating 1952 (9/15)

Rob Gardner (2289) 3/5

Micah Hughey (2186) Round 1,2,5 2.5/3

Sardul Purewal(2072) Round 3,4 1.5/2

Mark Nie (1380) 2/5

Dawn of the Living Pawn: Average rating 1993 (8/15)

Richard Wang (2285) 2.5/5

Jamil Kassam (1801) 2.5/5

Harris Wang (1892) 3/5

Roy's Rokin Rasta Ragamuffins: Average rating 1963 (7.5/15)

Roy Yearwood (2215) 2/5

Wade Caughlin (1954) Round 1,2,4,5 2.5/4

Alvin Pasco (1842) Round 3 0.5/1

Brian Minchau (1720) 2.5/5

The Robbing Vladiators: Average rating 1929 (7.5/15)

Vladimir Pechenkin (2396) 3.5/5

Vladislav Rekhson (2125) 4/5

Robert Bezjack (1266) Round 1 0/1

Alex Kaiser (UNR) Round 2,5 0/2

Inglourious Patzers: Average rating 1975 (7/15)

Sasa Grumic (2245) 2.5/5

Mike Zeggelaar (1999) 1.5/5

Tom Asquith (1682) 3/5

The Nightmare Scenario: Average rating 1566 (3/15)

Terry Seehagen (1783) 0/5

Andu Mihulescu (1464) 0/5

Jakob Kaiser (UNR) 3/5

The Impossible Dream Team: Average rating 1617 (2.5/15)

Aaron Sequillion (2044) Round 2,3,4,5 1.5/4

Volodymyr Blyznyuk (1556) 1/5

Mark Merkowsky (1526) Round 1 0/1

Alex Broughton (UNR) 0/5

Boards winners: Trophy + \$75

Board 1: Nic Haynes (2280) 4/5

Board 2: Vladislav Rekhson (2125) 4/5

Board 3: Arnold McKay (1943)

4/5 ,George Sponga (1745) 4/5. Arnold wins the trophy thanks to head to head tie break.

Thanks to all the participants. Great thank to Terry Seehagen for helping me to organize WBX 2010. without him I could not run the event successfully, Terry was especially helping with setting the boards and calling to find substitute players for some of the teams. also I would like to thank the Calgarian! Vlad Rekhson for his helping, thanks to Roy Yearwood, Wade Coughlin and Robert Bezjack for coming to edmonton, Aaron Sequillion for filling up the team 10 in last minute, Vitaly Motuz for being a backup if needed. Hopefully see all again in WBX 2011. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2011.



TD Ali Razzaq (left) with Rick Pedersen and Richard Pua (right) from "Two Ricks and an Arnie," Board 3 Arnold Mckay is not in the picture.



Lethbridge Open

By Tony Ficzero

Roy Yearwood continues his winning ways and finished tied for first with FM Vlad Pechenkin in Lethbridge, both scoring 4/5. He managed to draw with Pechenkin and also drew his last round game with Micah Hughey, sacking the exchange on the way. That game was quite interesting



and it is still available on the ACA site for viewing. Greg Holmes and Joshua Willie split top honours in the U1700 section with 3/5. Mike Scholz and Yaroslav Ilnytskyy took all the money in the U1500 section. Biggest upset in the tournament went to Lethbridge player, Jack Davies, for his first round draw with Pechenkin.

After round 3, everyone was invited back to Paul's place for wine, cheese and beer. Since I was the tournament director, I was the last guy to make the party, but was able to extract the last piece of cheese before Art Milne could snatch it up. There was no shortage of beverages and I even managed to slip in a few shots of some very good scotch. I think all but 2 players from the tournament stopped by to enjoy Paul's hospitality. Paul is a class act all the way.



Tournament Organizer Paul Viminitz

The turnout was a respectable 24 players (ok, 23 really as one player had to withdraw before he could make the trip). There is no doubt that the weather kept at least 3 others from attending as well and it would have been a record showing. The tournament has been gaining in popularity over the past 3 years and I am certain that 2012 will produce the largest one yet. Of note this year was the considerable improvement of the tables and chairs provided by the Lethbridge Lodge. Very comfortable high back office chairs and new tables gave the tournament a luxurious feel. The players really appreciated these new additions.

The local newspaper sent a photographer on Saturday and Paul Viminitz also did an interview with them on Sunday which appeared in Monday's paper in Lethbridge. The DGT boards also attracted a wide internet audience with over 150 different people checking out the games throughout the weekend.

So, thanks to Paul, Mike Scholz for providing transportation to Lethbridge, Stephen Stone for getting me home, Roy Yearwood for getting all the equipment back to Calgary and anyone else who pitched in to make the tournament a success.

2011 March of Kings

By Tony Ficzero

Attendance this year was down slightly over last year, however a last minute flood at the door made the turnout respectable. 18 players registered and I had 2 players fill in the byes to make sure nobody got a forced bye. We made the split at 1700, exactly half of the paid entries. Edmonton was kind enough to lend their DGT boards and our new ACA Executive Director got his first lesson on how to use them. I think he passed with flying colours. Although I wasn't slated as organizer or arbiter, I did TD 4 of the rounds.

It seems these days that Roy can't lose. So far this year, Roy has won the Trumpeter Classic and he also tied for first with Knut Neven at the Schleinich Memorial A. The only wrinkle so far this year was his performance at the Northern Alberta Open. Roy managed to go undefeated with 4.5/5, giving up just one half point to the tournaments second ranked player, Martin Robichaud. If you go back a little further in



Mike Zeggelaar vs. Rob Bezjack

time, you will notice that Roy also tied for first at the 2010 Southern Alberta Open. 2nd place went to Martin Robichaud with 4/5 and third was taken by a returning Thomas Kaminski at 3.5/5. It was good to see Thomas back in the saddle again. Edmonton's Richard Pua made a brief appearance and played round 2, thanks for showing up Richard, although your opponent might not feel the same way?!

In the Under 1700 section, junior Chenxi Zhao finished with 3/5 to claim top prize. Had Arthur Milne sandbagged a little more (rated 1704), he might have shared that honour. Mike Scholz took 2nd with 2.5/5 and it should be mentioned that Mike brought food for all of the players who participated. Mike always does this and it is always very much appreciated. Thank you once again Mike for not letting me starve! George Stacey won the U1200 prize as well as the biggest upset in the tournament for his win over Deweese Wood in round 2 (400 rating points). Gentleman George still needs to claim his prize! Honourable mention goes to Brady Jahruas, a new player at the Calgary Chess Club who was playing in his first ACA weekend event. Brady is an up and coming junior player who shows real promise and passion for the game. I guarantee this will not be the last time you read about him.

Thanks to Vlad, Roy, Deweese and anyone who I might have forgotten for their help in running this event.



Roy presents Vlad with his door prize!

2011 Alberta Closed Championship

By Tony Ficzer

For 2011, the Alberta Closed would be one of the strongest in the history of the province. The format is now a 6 player round robin. It used to be an 8 player round robin, but this was changed in 2005. This was the first time that 2 IMs would compete for the throne. The last time that Hansen and Porper played together in the Closed was in 2009, Hansen was only 16 and only a FM. In spite of his fewer years of experience, Hansen finished on top (actually both players tied for first but Eric had the better tie-breaks). It was Edward who actually attended the Canadian Zonal that year as Hansen had other plans.

Vlad Rekhson organized the event this year. The players are determined by the rules as set out by the Alberta Chess Association. The players would be last year's winner (Dale Haessel), plus the winners from the 3 official provincial qualifiers. The 2010 Alberta Open was won by Edward Porper. The 2010 Southern Alberta Open was won by Vlad Rekhson and the 2011 Northern Alberta Open was won by Richard Wang. The remaining two spots come from the rating list. Starting from the top rated and working down the list, players are asked to participate (as long as they meet the other ACA criteria which calls for a certain amount of participation in ACA events in the course of the year) until the final 2 spots are filled. In 2009, the average rating of the players going into the tournament was 2355 CFC. For 2011, that average was 2342 CFC.

The Alberta Closed rotates locations every year between Calgary and Edmonton. For 2011, Calgary would play host and the tournament would be held at the Calgary Chess Club. Both Calgary and Edmonton have excellent facilities for chess tournaments as both clubs have permanent locations for their clubs. The Edmonton Chess Club graciously allowed Calgary to borrow their DGT boards to broadcast the games live on the internet. The event is traditionally scheduled to be played over the Easter weekend, allowing for one game on Friday and two games on both Saturday and Sunday. Tony Ficzer would be the

Tournament Director. The stage was set and the players assumed their fighting positions.

The Players

IM Edward Porper



Edward was the highest FIDE rated player going into the event. Since moving to Edmonton, Edward consistently finishes at the top of the events he plays in. In 2009, Edward finished tied for first in a very strong Canadian Open, ahead of the great Alexi Shirov. His performance in the 2009 Canadian Zonal was less impressive, but there is no question about his chess strength. Edward is as close as you get to a chess professional in Alberta.

IM Eric Hansen



Eric earned his IM title in 2010 after a strong performance in the Calgary International. Two of his three IM norms were earned in Calgary and his final norm was earned on his 18th birthday. Alberta events have been good to Eric and he has

dominated just about every event played here since 2007. Eric has played tournaments around the world and is experienced beyond his years. He was definitely the favourite going into this year's tournament.

FM Dale Haessel



Dale is the defending champion and has won the Closed three times. Dale is a very active player both in Alberta and outside of the province and you will find his name in the crosstables of many events around North America. Dale has also played in all of the Calgary International tournaments and is constantly working towards his IM title. Dale is capable of playing very high quality games and has a number of GM scalps.

NM Richard Wang



This would be Richard's first appearance in the Closed, but it certainly won't be his last. Richard is steadily improving his game and there is little doubt that he has a bright future ahead of him. Richard put in a very good performance at the Calgary

International in 2010, finishing with 4/9 in a very strong field. GM Torre was very impressed with his play in that event and remarked on Richard's excellent tactical vision. Richard is without a doubt a rising star on the Canadian chess scene.

NM Nicolas Haynes



I have only met Nic a handful of times and I know very little about his chess career. I was very impressed with his character as he is a true gentleman in my opinion. Nic plays very energetically at the board and seems to have a taste for unbalanced positions. This caused his opponents some grief at this event as Nic often gained better positions. He could have upset any of the players this year.

Vladislav Rekhson



"Vlad the Impaler" is the current ACA Executive Director and is a FIDE Arbiter to boot. Vlad is an experienced tournament player, organizer and tournament director. While Vlad may have been the lowest rated player this year, there were a few

games where is managed to get better positions, causing his opponents some nervous moments. This was Vlad's first appearance in the Alberta Closed and he gained some valuable experience along the way.

Round 1

Things went off without a hitch, except from a technical point of view; only 2 of the 3 DGT boards were broadcasting. The problem was only discovered minutes before the round was to start, so we will go with the two boards for now. Dale Haessel was late as is customary for Dale. Richard Wang was about 5 minutes late as well. Rekhson vs. Porper was interesting. Vlad won the exchange by move 17 (or did Ed sac the exchange for a pawn, securing the Bishop pair?). Haessel vs. Hansen reached a complicated middle-game with Black having doubled c-pawns and advanced b and c-pawns, while Dale, with the White pieces was straddled with a backward d-pawn, but with good ♔-side chances. Wang vs. Haynes saw Richard also up the exchange for a pawn with White having the better position. As the night rolled on, strange things started to happen. Vlad had what Nic thought was a slight plus in his favour. Vlad forgot about the clock and flagged well before the first time control. Eric easily handled Haessel and scored the full point when Haessel resigned with mate looming. Wang had the winning position but must have hallucinated when he played



Wang vs. Haynes, position after 28... ♖f8

29. ♖xh6?

Black wins all three games in the first round.

Round 2

The Reserves got underway with 24 players, games started just after 10 am. I

figured out the problem with the one DGT board, turns out it is a faulty usb cable. It couldn't be a normal usb cable and there isn't one to be found in Canada. Haynes vs. Porper was the only game to start on time. Both Wang and Haessel were about 5 minutes late for their game. Hansen and Rekhson turned up within seconds of each other, both 20 minutes late. Hansen vs. Rekhson was the first game to end. Vlad went down the exchange for a pawn and Eric sacked the exchange back, at one point Eric had more pawn islands than Hawaii! The end came fast when Vlad missed a tactic which dumps the Queen. Wang vs. Haessel was an odd ♔-pawn game that was pretty even through to the middle-game. Richard may have been slightly better out of the opening, then Dale advanced his ♔-side pawns, Fritz liked Dale at that point. After



Wang vs. Haessel, position after 27... ♗xa8

28. ♗d5+, White looked to be winning and it wasn't long before Richard forced Dale to resign. Haynes vs. Porper was a good fight from start to finish. The opening seemed to favour the IM and he was soon up a pawn. Nic allowed Black a passed (albeit isolated) d-pawn which was the centre of the game. By move 40, the machine was giving Porper +1, even though material was equal. White was busy blocking the d-pawn with his Rook while Black mobilized his Rooks to force the win of another pawn, at which point, Nic resigned.

Round 3

At game time, one player from each board was present when the clocks were started. This would be the most important round to many as Porper would play Hansen. The winner would likely go on to win the tournament. Eric offered Edward a draw after a few preliminary moves causing the



Round 3: Porper vs. Hansen



Porper vs. Hansen, position after 28.f4

28...a4

By move 30, Eric was clearly better and continued to put pressure on Ed. I was watching the game on the internet at one point and sometime shortly after the first time control, Eric started to blitz off his moves. Porper seemed to be amused as when I glanced over at the board, he had a smirk on his face. Eric continued to move quickly, then suddenly got up from his board and came over to see me. He suddenly realized that there was a second time control! For a few brief moments, he had forgotten about this and thought he was down to the last few minutes of the game. Stuff happens sometimes. Fortunately for Eric, his position was still intact and Edward resigned on move 61. Eric was now alone in first with 3/3. Only two games remain.

Round 4

The clocks started at 11 am sharp. Again, only 3 of the 6 players were at the board. Mathematically, there were several possibilities as to who could win the tournament. Realistically, it appeared Eric was in full control. He looked very confident at the start of the round. Nic was his opponent this round. Nic is a really nice guy who keeps his composure at all times. Haessel vs. Rekhson was the first draw of the tournament. Vlad could have won a pawn at one point, but chose another path. Both players had yet to score any points and making peace seemed to be the right thing to do. They could rest up for the final round. Wang vs. Porper saw Richard with a reasonable opening, but by move 23, Porper had the better position with an excellent Knight on c4 commanding the game. Richard slipped on move 29 and resigned after Porper took the free pawn. Haynes vs. Hansen was the last game to finish. Haynes went down a pawn, but has

other players to chuckle. While there have been no draws in the first 2 rounds, the odds were in favour of at least one draw this round. But that didn't happen. All games were decisive, again. Black seems to be the colour of choice as after 3 rounds, 7 of the 9 games were won with Black. Rekhson vs. Wang was equal for the first 30 moves, Black might have been slightly better. Richard managed to isolate Vlad's d-pawn, which became a target as the game went on.

his favour.



Haessel vs. Haynes, position after 51...g3

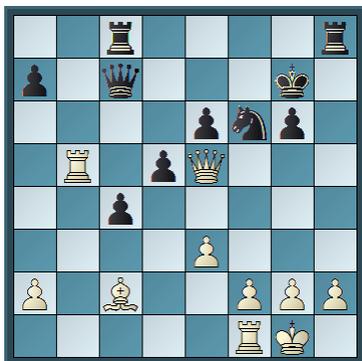
After 52.♖c4, Nic efficiently collected his full point and Haessel quickly disappeared into the night. Porper vs. Hansen was an interesting struggle. I'm not sure what their record is against each other, but it is certainly in Hansen's favour. One has to be curious how both players prepared for this game. Psychology was definitely a factor, Hansen having a slight edge in that department. However, Eric was a bit nervous at the start. Fritz liked Hansen out of the opening, but only marginally. At one point it appeared the result might be a draw after all as both players repeated moves around move 20. Eric varied to keep the game going. He now had a passed a-pawn and had the initiative and a small advantage.



Rekhson vs. Wang, position after 37...a4

38.♘e5 was probably not best as it allowed Black the tactic on e5, winning a pawn. After that, Richard's technique carried him home to the full point. Haessel vs. Haynes had Haessel better after winning 2 minor's for the Rook. 37.♗e4 lets Black back into the game and I would guess the position was about even after that. Dale might have been slightly better but once Nic was able to play 49...g8, things started to shift in

a recovered it a few moves later. At that point, the game looked to be even, Fritz gave White a slight plus. The turning point seemed to be at move 34 when Eric offered the exchange of Queens. Instead of 35. ♖xc7, Nic played



Haynes vs. Hansen, position after 34... ♖c7

35.f4, allowing Eric to exchange Queens and double the e-pawns. Eric quickly won a pawn and Nic resigned on move 42.

Round 5

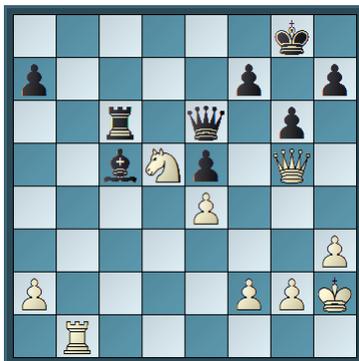
The final round had all the players at the board at the scheduled starting time for the first time in the tournament. Porper was still within reach of Hansen. All that had to happen is for Eric to lose against Wang and Porper to defeat Haessel. OK, that was a tall order. Rekhson vs. Haynes was the 2nd and final draw of the tournament. Nic had guaranteed himself 3rd place and the outcome of this game would only matter for rating points. The handshake came at move 27. The Queens came off early in Hansen vs. Wang. A better try for Richard might have been...



Hansen vs. Wang, position after 12... axb3

12... ♖xh2. After 12... ♗c7, Eric took control of the board and it was all over by move 18. Dale was still trying to make the best of his poor showing and played the Grünfeld against Ed. At move 20, the

position looked to be even. Ed had the big Knight on d5 that couldn't be moved while Dale had the Black squared Bishop. Ed gained control of the b-file and once he was able to play...



Porper vs. Haessel, position after 28... ♖e6

28. ♖b8+, the outcome seemed clear. Dale resigned after 37.h4+.

Eric wins the Alberta Closed with a perfect score of 5/5. As far as I can tell, this is the first time anyone has won all their games in this tournament. I will leave it to Alberta chess history buff's to check this out. Eric earns a paid spot in the upcoming Canadian Zonal which are being held in Guelph this May. Edward must have been disappointed. Aside from his game against Eric, his play was more or less flawless throughout. If only he could figure out the Hansen equation. Nic Haynes played some good chess, but he was lucky in his game against Wang. Had Richard been able to keep his emotions in check in their game, the outcome would have been reversed. This was Vlad's first appearance in the Alberta Closed. He knew he would be a punching bag, but it would also be an excellent experience. His final result of 1/5 was a half point better than he thought it would be, so all in all, a good tournament for him. Dale was clearly in poor form for



Hansen vs. Wang after the final move

this event. Dale has been at the top of the Alberta Closed 3 times and had every reason to believe he would finish much closer to the top than he did. There is also the "H" factor here in Alberta to consider. If your last name starts with H, you have a much better chance at winning this tournament, as players such as Hansen and Huber can attest to. There were no disputes or problems to report in this event. All of the players conducted themselves as perfect gentlemen and it was a pleasure to be among them.

I would like to thank Roy Yearwood, Jim Daniluk, Frank Kluytmans, Vlad Rekhson and especially Deweese Wood for their help during the event. They all made my job easier!

I would like to wish Eric Hansen all the best in his quest to become Canadian Champion this year in Guelph. I firmly believe he has the potential to become among the best players in Canada.

Website:

<http://www.albertachess.org/2011AC.html>

PGN Game Viewer & Download:

<http://www.albertachess.org/11AC.html>

2011 Alberta Closed		April 22-24, Calgary, Alberta								
		CFC	FIDE	1	2	3	4	5	6	Ttl
1	IM Eric Hansen	2538	2412		1	1	1	1	1	5
2	IM Edward Porper	2530	2437	0		1	1	1	1	4
3	NM Nicolas Haynes	2311	2165	0	0		1	½	1	2½
4	NM Richard Wang	2336	2214	0	0	0		1	1	2
5	Vladislav Rekhson	2083	2064	0	0	½	0		½	1
6	FM Dale Haessel	2255	2209	0	0	0	0	½		½
Average		2342	2250							

4th Calgary International

By Tony Ficzere

This year the tournament was a 10 player round robin with IM norm opportunities guaranteed. The idea is to provide Calgary and other Alberta players with the opportunity to play against titled players and perhaps earn an IM norm on the way. Players came from the USA (3), Poland (1) and Canada (6). The headliner this year was US GM Jesse Kraai from California. We hit a few bumps on the way as several players who had promised to play, had to withdraw for a variety of reasons. Thanks to Vladislav Rekhson who helped fill the roster in the days leading up to the tournament. US IM Enrico Sevillano was one of the players to fill in at the last minute. Enrico hails from the Philippines and has been living in the US for some time, currently residing in California. IM Stopa also lives in the US (Palo Alto, California) but still plays under the Polish flag. The other titled players were IM Eric Hansen and IM Edward Porper, both from Alberta. All titled players received

conditions to participate and all players in the tournament received transportation privileges for the duration of the tournament if they needed them. As well, players were treated to free beverages and a few light snacks, as well as entertainment, courtesy of a few volunteers (trip to Banff or a night on the town). All games were broadcast live on the tournament website (with a few snags on the way, but it worked reasonably well after ironing out the bugs) using DGT boards. We had 5 boards, but only had cables for 4 of them so we manually entered one game from each round so that all games were available.

I received a phone call just prior to the start of round 1 from Micah Hughey who offered \$1,000 to any player in the event who could win all 9 of his games. This would prove to be a tall order and all players were out of contention for this prize after the 2nd round. David Ottosen contacted Vlad and also offered \$1,000 to the prize fund if 66.7% of the games were decisive (barring any funny business). That would mean that of the 45 games to be played, at least 30 would have to end in victory. The tournament crosstable will



GM Jesse Kraai

show that this criteria was met as there were 31 decisive games and 14 draws. These prizes will be distributed by the ACA and cheques will be mailed to the winners.

The tournament produced many interesting and hard fought games. Every player lost at least one game, there were no players going undefeated. Daniel Kazmaier's first round victory with black over US FM Michael Langer was quite a struggle. This loss by Langer was a sign of things to come as he could only manage a single draw from his 9 games, obviously out of form. Daniel went on to lose his next 7 games but was able to pull off a major upset in the final round with a win over IM Stopa. Another notable game was Sevillano's win over Kraai with the black pieces. Eric Hansen was having a good tournament and needed at least a draw in the final round to secure a share of first. A victory would have given him the top spot



Front: Richard Wang. Kneeling left to right: Daniel Kazmaier, Enrico Sevillano, Michael Langer, Edward Porper, Dale Haessel. Back, left to right: Knut Neven, Eric Hansen, Jacek Stopa, Jesse Kraai, Tony Ficzere



IM Enrico Sevillano



Dale Haessel earns his first IM Norm

all alone. Of course, his opponent, Jesse Kraai had other ideas and handed Hansen his only loss of the tournament. The last round also gave Dale Haessel a draw against Sevillano which secured Dale's first IM norm. Dale had an excellent tournament and finished in the money, but the norm was the important thing for Dale. Richard Wang proved that he is more mature at the board than his 12 years would lead you to believe. Richard finished with 50% and continues to improve. Tournaments like the Calgary International and the Edmonton International will ensure that Richard is fed a steady supply of GMs and IMs to whet his appetite in the years to come without having to travel far. Stopa was less than happy with his performance, losing to both Haessel and Kazmaier had to hurt. Jacek's next stop is the Chicago International to be followed by a trip to Europe to chase the GM title. Porper was steady throughout, winning with white and drawing with black all the way until the 8th round when Stopa stopped him. Neven had to fight each game and towards the end had to battle with an obvious cold. Although he finished with just 2 points, his obtained many excellent positions only to collapse towards the end of many games. I attempted to provide reports after each round but found this to be too much. I had tried to enlist the services of someone else to do this as I thought it would add to the tournament overall. With all my other duties, I just didn't have the time to continue doing them. Next year we hope to hire someone to do this.

In the end, it was Kraai and Sevillano

taking 1st-2nd with 6.5/9. 3rd place money was split between Hansen, Porper and Haessel. There will be a full article in the next issue of *Canadian Chess News* by IM Edward Porper, complete with annotated games. You can also visit the tournament website for other information: www.calgarychess.com/2011CICC.

There are many people who contributed this year to make the Calgary International a success. Thanks to Vlad Rekhson who helped in all aspects of the organization and execution of the tournament. Vlad now has enough knowledge of using the DGT boards to run them himself should the occasion present itself. One note about the DGT boards should be mentioned. While the boards themselves are simple to operate, the software that is required to broadcast the games is less than perfect and requires constant supervision. Leaving the software unattended for a few minutes can result in a system crash which, if not attended to quickly and efficiently, can result in downtime in the broadcast. It should also be noted that the software itself does not come with a good help feature and that fixing the problems along the way had to be learned by trial and error (many errors).

Frank Kluytmans is another individual who contributed major time and expense to the tournament. Frank not only provided transportation to and from the airport, but also provided transportation to and from the tournament site daily as well as took some players out on the town at his own expense. Frank also did much of the TD'ing for the Calgary International Reserves and took a number of photos for the event. Thank you Frank.

Jim Daniluk was also there and provided a few of the players with a trip to Banff before the start of round 1. Jim also kept the fridge stocked throughout and gave me one less thing to worry about. Jim was also there to provide transportation to anyone who needed it, as well as feed the hungry organizer.

Deweese Wood was the man on site who kept the place clean, made the coffee and filled in as the odd man in the Reserve section if a player was needed.

Plans are already underway for the 5th Calgary International which should be bigger and better than previous editions.

Calgary International Reserves

By Tony Ficzer

This six round event is played alongside the Calgary International. Space is limited to 32 players, while only 23 players registered. Probably a good thing as having more bodies might have made things more difficult. The event was reasonably strong with 4 masters and another 5 experts at the top.

Nandor Tot and Alex Yam finished tied for first with 5/6. Jim Daniluk was next with 4.5/6 which unfortunately was not good enough to get any prize money. Krishneel Singh continues to collect rating points and prize money. He claimed Top U1800 with 3.5/6, defeating expert Sean Perron and drawing with expert Hafiz Karmali on the way. 2nd U1800 went to Hemant Persaud with 3/6. Chenxi Zhao is another rapidly improving junior whose rating is way out of whack. Chenxi took top honours in the U1500 section with 3/6, drawing with expert Jim Daniluk in round 1. Brady Jahraus collected 2nd place in the U1500 section. Krishneel also collected the biggest upset prize for his win over Perron.

We also had a few raffles during the tournament, thanks to Roy Yearwood for donating. These were adult oriented as one was a nice bottle of Australian wine and the other was a gift set of Jack Daniels. The proceeds went directly back into the prize fund for the Reserves. Roy ended up winning the bottle of wine himself, which he quickly refused. Hemant Persaud won the Jack Daniels.

Thanks to Frank Kluytmans who assisted in directing the tournament and also to Deweese Wood who filled in when needed as a player. Deweese also keeps the place clean and organized without being asked. Much appreciated!



Tournament winners Alex Yam and Nandor Tot

2011 ACA Tournament Schedule

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

Date	Event	Organizer	Location
June 18-19	Edmonton International Qualifier	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton
July 27-Aug 1	Edmonton International Chess Festival	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton
TBA	Battle of Alberta	Hughey/Daniluk	Red Deer
Sep 3-4	Over / Under 1800	Roy Yearwood	Calgary
Sep 17-18	Medicine Hat Open	Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 8-10	Alberta Open	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton
Oct 28-30	Edmonton Fall Sectional	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton
Nov 5-6	Alberta Junior	Roy Yearwood	Calgary
Nov 19-20	Southern Alberta Open	Roy Yearwood	Calgary
Dec 3	Christmas Youth Open	Roy Yearwood	Calgary
Dec 17-18	WBX Team Tournament	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton

2011 Over/Under 1800

September 3-4
Calgary Chess Club
#274 3359 27th Ave NE

Format: 5 Round Swiss - CFC rated, 2 sections
TD: Roy Yearwood

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increment

Schedule: Saturday, 10 am, 2 pm, 7 pm; Sunday, 9 am, ASAP

Byes: Maximum 2 half point byes available in first 3 rounds

Entry: \$35 Adult, \$30 Junior (Under 20). Add \$5 to register at the door

Registration: Enter at the Calgary Chess Club on any Tuesday or Thursday evening or mail your cheque payable to the Calgary Chess Club to:

Calgary Chess Club, #274 3359 27th St. NE, Calgary, AB, T1Y 5E1
Advanced registrations will be made available on the ACA website

www.albertachess.org

Prizes: Sum of entry fees less \$5 per player for ACA dues

This is a *Road Warrior* Event!



Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association

OVER
UNDER 1800



Balance of 2011 Schedule

Society of Alberta Chess Knights & The Roving ChessNuts

To be notified of any changes or updates to this schedule, e-mail: societyofchessknights@shaw.ca and you will be sent updated schedules and details of events by e-mail.

Friday, July 1 - Canada Day Chess Tournaments at Sherwood Park Festival Place, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, July 1 - Canada Day Chess Promotion on front steps of Edmonton City Hall, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday to Friday, July 4 - 8 - Chess Camp(s) at Roving ChessNuts

During July and August, the Roving ChessNuts will be holding Chess & More Boot Camps on weekdays and some Saturday/ Sunday afternoons - these include chess/ running; chess/soccer; chess/basketball; chess/athletics; chess/lawn games, etc.

Sunday, July 17 - Hermitage Park Outdoor Chess and Family Picnic -

register at: www.rovingchessnuts.com

Sunday, August 14 - Grand Prix Pro

(Top half of GP players by rating)

Sunday, August 21 - Grand Prix Amateur

(Bottom half of GP players)

Sunday, September 11 - Back to School Scholastic Tournament at

Edmonton Chess Club (ECC)

Sunday, September 25 - Grand Prix Final for 2010/11 at ECC

Sunday, October 2 - Win a Turkey for Thanksgiving Tournament at ECC

Friday evening, October 14 - Jr./Sr.

High Only Tournament at ECC

Sunday, October 23 - Elementary School Team Match #1 at ECC

Saturday/Sunday, November 5 & 6 - Alberta Junior Championship in Calgary

Sunday, November 13 - Northern Alberta Scholastic Championship

Friday evening, November 25 - Elementary School Team Match #2

Friday evening, December 2 - Jr./Sr.

High Only Tournament at ECC

Sunday, December 11 - Scholastic Christmas Tournament at ECC

Saturday Morning, December 31 - End of 2011 Scholastic Tournament

Battle of Alberta North vs. South

Watch the ACA website for updates



Edmonton scholastic tournaments, classes attracting more participants

During the 2010/11 school year, record numbers were involved in scholastic chess programs and events in Edmonton and area. There were also new events and classes offered through the Society of Alberta Chess Knights and The Roving ChessNuts.

More school instructional programs, with more students collectively involved, occurred, and many students entered their first out-of-school rated tournament at regular monthly SACK events or at special programs such as the Chess Explosions held at many Edmonton library branches and the new library in Sherwood Park.

The school year also saw the introduction of the Northern Alberta Scholastic Championship which attracted 87 players and the first implementation of Pro and Amateur sections based on ratings.

More junior and senior high students were involved in tournaments and classes this past school year, including a high school event hosted by M.E. Lazerte High, and some Skins (cash for each game won or drawn) Tournaments hosted by The Roving ChessNuts.

Some recent tournament results include:

- Complete results from **2011 Alberta Chess Challenge** can be viewed at: www.rovingchessnuts.com/rovingchessnuts_003.htm

- Westbrook Elementary defeated New Horizons School, 8-6, to capture the **Elementary School Team Championship** on May 1. Westbrook A Team: Mark Nie, David Yao, Kaining Lin, Lukas Maliawan, Rayden Lin, Poplar Wang, and Eric Hsaio. New Horizons A Team: Noah Hoffner, Ian McCullough, Allan Stanislus, Adam Mawani, Austin Hesse, Kevin Stanislus, Tosin Kuye. In the B section, Garneau Elementary defeated Westbrook B Team, 4-2. Garneau: Jakob Kaiser, Alex Broughton, Ada Broughton. Westbrook B: Adam Roth, Ryan Nowakowsky, Andrei Niculescu, Siddhartha Chitrakar, Sayuru Liyanage, Gautam Katta

• May 15 Scholastic Chess Tournament Results:

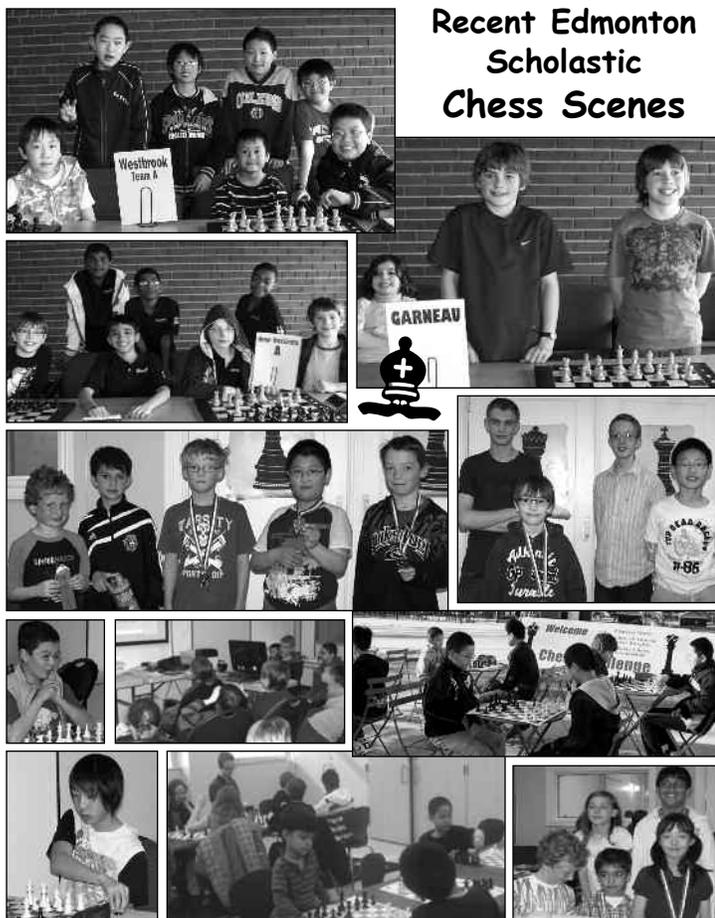
Section A: 1 - 2 Tie: Derek Thomas and Noah Hoffner, 3. Etienne Leclerc, 4. Dennis Situ . **B:** 1. Jakob Kaiser, 2-3 Tie: Henry Song and Michael Ludwig, 4. David McCullough. **C:** 1. Allan Stanislus, 2. Kaixin Wang. **D:** 1. Luciano Di Blasi, 2. Poplar Wang, 3-4 Tie: Kaining Lin and Adam Mawani, 5. Darren Li, 6. David Yao. **E:** 1. Austin Hesse, 2. Ibrahim Elmallah, 3. Vinh Nguyen, 4. Thomas Nef-Ojeda, 5. Alex Broughton. **F:** 1. Aren Zita, 2. David Lacy, 3. Ying Li 4. Kevin Stanilus, 5. Raghu Manohar, 6. Jeremy Kerr. **G:** 1. Nick Twells, 2. Divya Shah, 3-4-5 Tie: Brenda Lacy, Matthew Zita and Alvin Wu, 6. Siddhartha Chitrakar. **H:** 1. Monsef Soliman, 2. Stefan Stanescu, 3. Adam Omar, 4. John Thomson, 5. Bryn McDougald. **I:** 1. Matthew Lu, 2. Liam Thompson, 3. Alex Emes, 4-5 Tie: Ellis McDougald and Ishaq Lee Son. **J:** 1. Timothy Lu, 2. Gautam Katta, 3. Jacques Zhang, 4-5 Tie: Bryce Emes and Andi Superceanu. **Girls-Only:** 1. Jessie Zhang, 2. Ada Broughton, 3. Madura Katta, 4-5 Tie: Bronwyn Tonelli and Leanne Lacy, 6. Olga Cadenillas.

• June 12 Scholastic Chess Tournament Results:

Section A: 1. David McCullough, 2. Jakob Kaiser, 3. Luciano Di Blasi. **B:** 1. Zack Kirsch, 2. Vinh Nguyen, 3. Lukas Muliawan, 4. David Yao **C:** 1. Rayden Lin, 2. Aren Zita, 3. David Lacy, 4. Alex Broughton, 5. Tosin Kuye, 6. Ibrahim Elmallah. **D:** 1. Praanesh Sureshkumar, 2. Nick Twells, 3. Matthew Zita, 4-5 Divya Shah and Raghu Manohar, 6. Ying Li. **E:** 1. Monsef Soliman 2. Brendan Lacy, 3. Emmett Maxfield, 4. Collin Harrison. **F:** 1. Siddhartha Chitrakar, 2. Alvin Wu, 3. Daniel Kim, 4. Ada Broughton, 5. Garham Warner. **G:** 1. Ravi Khatri, 2. Hareesh Sureshkumar, 3. Daniel Zhang, 4. John Thomson, 5. Alex Emes. **H:** 1. Lilly Kim, 2. Jason Deol, 3. Nabil Kassam, 4. Maiah Walters, 5. Ellis McDougald. **I:** 1. Leah Walters, 2. Bryn McDougald, 3. Jacques Zhang, 4. Gautam Katta, 5-6 Zain Shaikh and Yomna Soliman. **J:** 1. Adrian Kovac, 2. Prayush Shrestha, 3. And Superceanu, 4. Bryce Adams, 5. Cai Walters, 6. Max Hiew



Bowling was more popular than chess when the Society of Alberta Chess Knights' (SACK) Grand Prix program treated the involved players to a bowling party on June 18. Above, Jakob Kaiser and dad Alexander (left) formed a team with Kaixin Wang and dad Jack, to compete against seven other teams. The winning team consisted of Noah Hoffner and dad Randy with Ryan Nowakowsky and dad Blair. The 2010/11 Grand Prix program will wrap up in September and the 2011/12 program will start October 1. The Grand Prix program usually has over three dozen players competing for special awards and getting a discount and other benefits in a year's worth of SACK scholastic tournaments. E-mail: societyofchessknights to receive a flyer for the 2011/12 program.



Recent Edmonton Scholastic Chess Scenes

6th Edmonton International Qualifier and Fundraiser

By Vlad Rekhson



Tournament winner NM Rob Gardner (right) and best junior/u-2000 Jamil Kassam (left).

Just like in every previous edition of the Edmonton International, it is preceded by an open qualifier event. Besides deciding who would get one of the qualifying spots in this year's Edmonton International, this event is also used to raise funds for the main events. Half of all entries go towards the Edmonton International and the rest go towards paying the qualifier prizes. This year, the junior participants of the qualifier received an additional incentive as Sardul Purewal donated a new DGT clock to the top performing junior.

The event itself wasn't very large as 16 players competed for the qualification spot. It would come to no one's surprise that when the smoke cleared the winner was "The Rocket" Rob Gardner, who scored 4.5/5. Rob took a third round bye and won all his other games. Second place went to Alex Yam from Calgary who played some interesting and exciting games but came short in his game against Rob. Both, the best junior, and the best u-2000 prizes went to Edmonton's newest rising star; Jamil Kassam, who scored a remarkable 3/5 in this strong event.

Society of Alberta Chess Knights Grand Prix Chess for Students, Grades K thru 12

While this is mainly for Northern Alberta scholastic players living near Edmonton, there will be a special section in 2011/12 for players living further afield who want to participate in special events.

e-mail: societyofchessknights@shaw.ca
for a flyer about Grand Prix Chess



2011 Edmonton International Reserves Section

July 30-August 1, 2011
Edmonton Chess Club,
#204 10840 124 St, T5M 0H3
Phone: 780-424-0283

The Edmonton International Reserves Section, will take place alongside the main event of the 6th annual Edmonton International Chess Festival.

Event Details

TD: ali_alnajmi@hotmail.com

6 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE rated CFC membership is required and available at the site: \$43 adults, \$28 juniors

Entry fee: \$35 for CFC members, \$55 for non-members and \$45 for junior non-members

Early Registration: \$30 if you pay by Thursday, July 21. At the ECC you may pay Ali Razzaq or Terry Seehagen. In Calgary you can pay Vlad Rekhson. You can send your cheque to the ECC address which is at the top of this page.

On-site Registration: 9am-9:45am Saturday, July 30, 2011.

Round times: Saturday: 10am; 3 pm, Sunday: 10am; 3 pm, Monday: 10 am; **ASAP Time controls:** G/90/40 + 30 minutes with 30 seconds increment from move 1.

Byes: Up to three half-point byes are available for rounds 1-5 if announced before the start of round 1

Prizes: Entry fees minus \$5 per entry for ACA dues. Class prizes will be available and based on the level of participants.

Best Junior Prize: Minimum \$100 if at least 6 juniors (20 and under) participate.

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

Find more information at:
www.edmontonchessfestival.ca



WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN ALBERTA!

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.
Friday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
phone: 403.264.9498
website: www.calgarychess.com

Calgary Junior Chess Club

Contact: Simon Ong
email: simong89@yahoo.ca
website: <http://sites.google.com/site/calgaryjuniorchessclub>

University of Calgary Chess Club

email: chess@ucalgary.ca
website: <http://sites.google.com/site/calgaryjuniorchessclub>

Edmonton Chess Club

204 10840-124 St
Mondays and Thursdays 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
phone: 780.424.0283
website: www.edmontonchessclub.org

Edmonton Casual Chess

For general information or if you are
interested in setting up a new casual site
in Northern Alberta, contact Bruce
Thomas of the rovingchessnuts.
phone: 780.474.2318
email: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

Grande Prairie Chess Club

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

University of Alberta

Student Union Building, 8900 114th St.
Open area tables in the food court, main
floor. Casual games between 3:30 p.m.-
6:30 p.m. email: uachess@ualberta.ca
website: <http://uachess.wetpaint.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

La Crete Chess Club

Contact: Chris White
H: (780)9283523 W: (780)9283632
email: fagandrivpark@hotmail.com

Lethbridge Chess Club

Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South
(on the second floor in the games room)
6:00pm until 9 or 10pm
Contact: Paul Viminitz vimp0@uleth.ca

University of Lethbridge Chess Club

e-mail: chess.club@uleth.ca
website: <http://people.uleth.ca/%7Echess.club>

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

402 Maple Avenue SE
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

The Alberta Chess Association is
pleased to help out our existing chess
clubs with any support they may
require. We also encourage the
formation of new clubs through our
Chess Club seeding program. If you
would like to start a chess
club in your town, please contact the
ACA to see if you qualify for the
program.

Email
vrekhsen@yahoo.ca
for more information



Contact us:

Tim Pradzinski 780-518-2281
Email database@telusplanet.net

www.gpchessclub.com

Calgary Chess Club



274 3359 27th St. NE
Tuesdays, Thursdays
Fridays from 7 p.m.
Saturday Junior program
1-4pm
Lessons available
www.calgarychess.com

