

ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

A Newsletter Published By The Alberta Chess Association

April 2001

Vol. 26, No. 2

ROCKET WINS [INSERT TOURNAMENT NAME HERE]

ROB GARDNER: EDMONTON CLOSED CHAMPION By John Quiring, TD

On several occasions, David Ottosen had mentioned to me that Edmonton Chess Club tournaments tended to be a bit dull, with one swiss system event inexorably following another throughout the year. He took it upon himself to liven things up, some time ago, by creating a "team tournament" in which players from the top half were paired with players from the bottom half for prize purposes.

Recently David was at it again, when he convinced the ECC Board to run the Edmonton Closed as a series of elimination matches instead of the customary 8 player round robin. Starting with 16 players, four rounds of 2-game matches were held, leading to a champion in 8 rounds of chess. At the same time a Reserves tournament was held for players who were not among the top 16, as well as players who could not commit to an 8 round event (no byes or postponements were permitted in the elimination matches). Additionally, players eliminated from the Closed could join the Reserves.

The Club donated a prize fund of \$400 and left it up to me to determine the prize structure. I wanted to give everyone a reasonable chance to compete for a prize, but it was difficult to foresee how the tournaments would unfold, with some players in the Reserves right from the beginning and others joining at various times as they were eliminated from the Closed. I borrowed heavily from one of David's ideas, and added several complications of my own. The resulting scoring and prize structure was so convoluted that no one could figure out whether it was unfair, so there were no complaints.

One contentious point was how to break a tie if the two game match ended up 1-1, so I presented various options and surveyed the players. The result was that playoffs would be held on a separate day, with 2 games at a time control of game in 60 minutes, with FIDE Rapid Play rules in effect. If still tied, this would be followed by

2 games of game in 15 minutes, until the tie was broken. David suggested there would be trouble if Micah Hughey and Alan Clark were paired, as they had drawn the last 1000 games against each other, but all we could do was hope that match-up did not occur.

ROUND 1

(Players are numbered with their pre-tournament ranking)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Robert Gardner (2355) | 1 1 |
| 16. Val Verlik (1606) | 0 0 |

Rob won game 1 with a steady build-up, grabbing space and then material. Val conceded the match and moved directly into the Reserves for round 2.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 2. Sasha Grumic (2212) | 1 1 |
| 15. Adam Tassone (1625) | 0 0 |

Adam prepared quite seriously for this match. He was ready for Sasha's Evan's Gambit in round 1, but ended up in an inferior variation and lost. Game 2 ended on an early blunder.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 3. David Ottosen (2141) | = 1 |
| 14. John Macnab (1670) | = 0 |

An upset loomed as John built up a winning advantage in game 1. He nurtured his position for some time, and couldn't contain an outburst of self-recrimination when he walked into a mate in one. Except it wasn't mate. Chagrined but still winning, John ended up with 2 connect pawns + rook against a rook. David was able to escape with a draw when he blockaded the pawns with his king. In game 2, David won a tough, grinding game.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 4. Micah Hughey (2074) | 1 1 |
| 13. Simon Yewchuk (1673) | 0 0 |

Game 1 was close until Simon found the worst move on the board, moving his king from safety into a mate in one. Game 2 was a forfeit.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 5. Alan Clark (2023) | 1 1 |
| 12. Alvin Pasco (1680) | 0 0 |

Alan won game 1 (published last issue) when Alvin ruined a promising position with a hasty sacrifice. Round 2 was a forfeit.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 6. Ford Wong (1933) | 1 1 |
| 11. John Anderson (1695) | 0 0 |

John won the first 90% of each game, but found the last 10% was more important. Ford's patient play gave John the opportunity to self-destruct and he obliged.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 7. Ahmet Yamach (1791) | 1 1 |
| 10. Greg Beebe (1717) | 0 0 |

After being simply outplayed in game 1, Greg achieved a decisive position in game 2, then pushed his pawns to squares where they looked dangerous but couldn't advance against a well-placed bishop. Needing the victory, Greg's only try was a desperate sacrifice which Ahmet easily refuted.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 8. David Ludwig (1768) | 1 1 |
| 9. Peter Lacroix (1717) | 0 0 |

Peter described this match as "two bad games where I played badly and lost".

ROUND 2

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Rob Gardner (2355) | 1 1 |
| 8. David Ludwig (1768) | 0 0 |

Rob won two hard-fought and interesting games, each decided by errors as the first time control approached.

Gardner - Ludwig Game 2

1.d4 f5 2.Qd3 d5 3.g4 fxg4 4.h3 Nf6 5.Bg5 Qd6 6.Nc3 c6 7.0-0-0 Na6 8.hxg4 Nxg4 9.Nh3 Nb4 10.Qd2 Bf5 11.f3 Nf6 12.e4 dxe4 13.fxe4 Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bf4 Nxa2+ 16.Kb1 Bxh1 17.Bxd6 exd6 18.Re1+ Kd7 19.Kxa2 Be7 20.Nf4 g5 21.Bh3+ Kc7 22.Ne6+ 1-0

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 2. Sasha Grumic (2212) | 1 1 |
| 7. Ahmet Yamach (1791) | 0 0 |

Sasha was able to get his pieces on good squares, and Ahmet always seemed to have the more difficult problems to solve.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 3. David Ottosen (2141) | 0 1 1 1 1 |
| 6. Ford Wong (1933) | 1 0 0 0 |

The first tied match of the tournament occurred as David narrowly avoided being shutout when Ford uncharacteristically hung a rook in the second game, after winning the first. But it was difficult for Ford to have confidence in the tie break, be-

(Continued on page 3)

The Alberta Chess Report (ACR) is published 6 times per year by the Alberta Chess Association. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for brevity and clarity. Uncredited articles are usually written by the Editor; opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the ACA.

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Deadline for next issue: May 31, 2001

Reminder to Tournament Directors

The CFC requires a rating report to be submitted within a month, but strongly urges submissions within seven days. You owe it to participants to submit a report ASAP. Also, please support your newsletter by sending a written report to the ACR. Not that game scores are the property of tournament directors. Prizes can be withheld until players submit their games.

Submissions

Send email to the editor at:
webmaster@albertachess.org

Or mail to

Alberta Chess Association
Box 11839 Main P.O.
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3K9

Games preferably sent in PGN format with no special formatting or characters - just plain ASCII text. Games sent in another format run the risk of being rejected.

ACA WEBSITE

<http://www.albertachess.org>

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EDITORIAL

The ACA board has decreed that the ACR will come out on the first of every even-numbered month, thus eliminating the somewhat haphazard release schedule. As a result this issue was somewhat rushed and I apologise in advance for any errors or omissions.

First on this month's agenda is a thank-you to Calgary tournament directors for their consistent approach to submitting tournament reports. They all came in the same format, none were overdue, and none of them were too long. Or to put in bluntly, I received diddly squat from our colleagues to the south. Not that it surprised me, this being the trend for some time now; at least since I took over the editorship.

Elsewhere, the Edmonton Closed was recently completed, and Rob Gardner continued his winning streak, deservedly winning the title. The new knockout system was generally well-received by the players, although it was disappointing to see a number of players not compete in the reserves section after being knocked out of the closed. Nevertheless, it is an experiment that is likely to be repeated.

This month I am in a debt of gratitude to: John Quiring, Glenn Booth, Adrien Regimbald, Bill Taylor, David Ottosen, Micah Hughey, Doug Boyd and all those who submitted games for their trouble.

I shall take my leave of you now, and let David Ottosen take the stage with his always amusing President's Message.

Until next,

Alan Clark B.Sc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Several months further into the ACA's existence...

A consistent problem for the ACA recently has been a lack of a strong organizer in Calgary. This has been reflected in some of the difficulties in finding sites and TD's for tournaments. Fortunately, one of these problems has been solved through the work of Tom McKay and Dr. Ron Hinds, who have secured a site for Calgary tournaments for the rest of the year. See the back page for details.

However, a big problem still exists in Cal-

gary. The ACR has had little or nothing in the way of tournament reports from Calgary in the past year. I consider this a major worry for a variety of reasons; first, the ACR is a historical record of chess in Alberta. It detracts from the ACR to have no report from major Calgary tournaments. Second, I know that when I was a new player, I tore open each new ACR hoping to see my name in an actual chess publication. New players these days should have the same anticipation, and the lack of tournament reports doesn't help. Finally, the lack of reports simply makes it seem like there is less going on in Calgary than there is. Calgary has a vibrant chess scene with two active clubs, a strong junior program, and a nice slate of weekend tournaments. Let's hear more about it, Calgary!

Within ACA news, the ACA's next casino is coming up in Calgary and we need volunteers. Volunteering at a casino involves running chips, counting money, and acting as a cashier. At no point will you be asked to wear a dorky uniform and deal Blackjack, or anything remotely similar. The vast majority of your time will be spent playing speed chess in the back room against other ACA type people and enjoying fabulous meals courtesy of the ACA. However, the ACA does need volunteers, and if you are asked, please do not hesitate to sign up. Hosting casinos is what keeps your ACA membership at \$5 (as opposed to, for example, BC at \$20) and what allows all the money from tournament entry fees to go to the prize fund.

As we approach the end of my term as ACA President (and more importantly, John Quiring's term as ACA treasurer), I strongly encourage anyone interested in either of our positions to approach us; the Treasurer position in particular requires a great deal of knowledge and you will need some training to understand what is going on and what is required. This position is critical to the functionality of the ACA, and anyone interested is advised to let John know now so that he can begin the transfer.

The Alberta Closed and Reserves is coming up again, and the field looks to be strong again for the Closed (I did my best to keep it weak). In an odd twist, there are 4 Edmonton players and 4 Calgary players. It will be an interesting fight for 5th between the Calgarians...

David "194" Ottosen
ACA President
dottosen@powersurf.com

EDMONTON CLOSED (Continued from page 1) cause game in one hour would severely impinge his playing style. On the other hand, David was taking about 30 minutes per game in total so he wouldn't even notice the "short" time control. Ford was determined to avoid getting into time trouble, but his quick play led to two quick losses.

**Ottosen - Wong
Playoff, game 1**

1. f4 Nc6 2. e4 e5 3. Nf3 d6 4. Bc4 h6 5. O-O Nf6 6. Nc3 exf4 7. d4 Bg4 8. Bxf4 Qd7 9. h3 Bxf3 10. Rxf3 O-O-O 11. Bb5 a6 12. Ba4 d5 13. Be5 Nxe4 14. Nxe4 dxe4 15. Bxc6 Qxc6 16. Rc3 Bd6 17. Rxc6 Bxe5 18. Qg4+ 1-0

**Wong - Ottosen
Playoff, game 2**

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 e6 4. Nf3 dxc4 5. e4 b5 6. a4 Bb4 7. Bd2 Bb7 8. axb5 Bxc3 9. bxc3 cxb5 10. e5 Ne7 11. Ng5 Nd5 12. Qh5 g6 13. Qg4 Qd7 14. Ne4 O-O 15. Nf6+ Nxf6 16. exf6 Qd5 17. Bh6 Re8 18. Qg3 Nd7 19. Bg7 e5 20. O-O-O exd4 21. Rxd4 Qf5 22. Qh4 h5 23. Rxd7 Qxd7 24. Qg5 Re1+ 25. Kb2 Qd1 26. Bxc4 Qa1+ 27. Kb3 bxc4+ 28. Kxc4 Rc8+ 29. Kd4 Qxc3# 0-1

4. Micah Hughey (2074) | = | 1 |
5. Alan Clark (2023) | = | 0 |

The dreaded matchup occurs between the two players who always draw. The first game is true to form as Alan builds up an initiative but Micah defends well. And suddenly it's all over, as illness [Flu - ed] forces Alan to forfeit game 2.

SEMI-FINAL

1. Rob Gardner (2355) | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | = |
4. Micah Hughey (2074) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | = |

As the score shows, Micah gave Rob all he could handle, extending the match into a second tie-breaker before succumbing to the pressure from the veteran master. The games were exciting and the stakes were high in this great match.

**Hughey - Gardner
Game 1**

Notes by Hughey

1. d4 f5 2. e4 d6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Bd3 e6 5. Nge2 Bg7 6. Be3 Ne7 7. f3 b6 8. Qd2 h6 9. h4 Bb7 10. Nf4 Qd7 11. d5 exd5 12. exd5 c6 13. O-O-O cxd5 14. Bb5 Bc6 15. Nfxd5 Nxd5 16. Bxc6 Nxc6 17. Nxd5 Ne5 18. Rhe1 O-O 19. Bxh6 Nc4 20. Qg5 Bxb2+ 21. Kb1 Qb5 22. Ne7+??

22.a4!! wins immediately as there is no perpetual check after 22...Na3+ 23.Ka2 Qc4+ 24.Kxb2 Qxc2+ 25.Kxa3 as the knight covers the c3 square. Ex. 22.a4 Qxa4 23.Qxg6+ Kh8 24.Bg7+! with a quick mate. The text move allows black at least a perpetual check and maybe more
22...Kh7

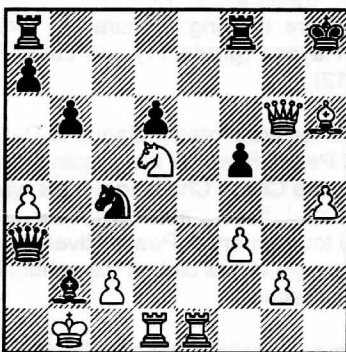
22...Kh8! 23.Nxg6+ Kh7 24.Nxf8+ Rxf8 25.c3! and I still haven't figured out who's winning

23. Qxg6+ Kh8 24. a4 Qb4??

This was the chance for perpetual check. 24...Na3+! 25.Ka2 Qc4+ 26.Kxb2 Qxc2+ 25.Kxa3 Qc3+ with a draw. I saw this during the game and Sasha Grumic pointed it out afterwards

25. Nd5!

Winning. Now that the knight is covering c3 again, that same perpetual doesn't work
25...Qa3

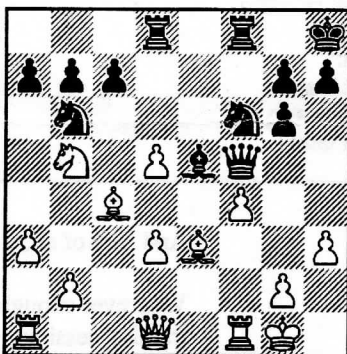


White to play, mate in five!

26. Bg7+ Bxg7 27. Qh5+ Bh6
If ...Kg8 then Ne7 checkmate
28. Qxh6+ Kg8 29. Ne7+ Kf7 30. Qg6#
This was my first win over the Rocket.

**Gardner - Hughey
Game 2**

1.c4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.cxd5 exd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.d3 Be7 9.h3 Nb6 10.Qf3 Bg6 11.Nge2 0-0 12.Be3 Qd7 13.Nf4 Rad8 14.a3 Bd6 15.Nxg6 fxe6 16.0-0 Kh8 17.Qd1 Qf5 18.Nb5 Be5 19.f4



Bxb2 20.Rb1 Nbxid5 21.Bxa7 Bc3 22.Rb3 Ba5 23.Qf3 b6 24.Nd4 Qd7 25.Bb5 Qf7 26.Nc6 Ne3 27.Rfb1 Rde8 28.Nxa5 bxa5 29.Bxe8 Rxe8 30.Bxe3 1-0

2. Sasha Grumic (2212) | 0 | 1 | 0 | = |
3. David Ottosen (2141) | 1 | 0 | 1 | = |

This was the first, and only, upset in

all the matches in this tournament. David continued his trend of winning by a minimal margin against every opponent. He also continued to play quickly, generally using less than half the time used by his opponents. In the one-hour playoff games, Sasha was pushed to the limit on clock both times and had to settle for second best.

**Ottosen - Grumic
Game 1**

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.a4 a6 7.Bc4 d6 8.Nxd4 cxd4 9.Ne2 e6 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Ng3 d5 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Qf3 0-0 14.Bxd5 exd5 15.d3 h5 16.f5 h4 17.f6 Bh8 18.Ne2 Qb6 19.Qf4 Bf5 20.Qxd4 Qxf6 21.Qxd5 Qb6+ 22.Kh1 Rad8 23.Qf3 h3 24.gxh3 Bd7 25.Ng3 Bc6 26.Ne4 f5 27.Rg1 Rd6 28.Bh6 Re8 29.Qxf5 Kh7 30.Qf4 Rf6 31.Qh4 Kg8 32.Rg2 Rfe6 33.Rag1 Bxe4 34.dxe4 Bd4 35.Rf1 Rxe4 36.Qh5 R4e6 37.Qd5 Kh8 38.a5 Re1 39.Bg7+ Kxg7 40.Qf7+ 1-0

FINAL

1. Robert Gardner (2355) | 1 | = |
3. David Ottosen (2141) | 0 | = |

Rob was full value for the win, taking the first game in a surprisingly straightforward game. David mixed it up more in the second game, but Rob seemed to have everything under control, agreeing to a draw to take the first prize. As champion, Rob also won the qualifying spot in the Alberta Closed.

**Ottosen - Gardner
Game 1**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.f4 h6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.e5 dxe5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.g3 exf4 13.0-0-0 Bb4 14.Bg2 0-0 15.Bxc6 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Rb8 17.Qxf4 Qxf4+ 18.gxf4 Bb7 19.Rd6 Bxc6 20.Rxc6 Rfc8 21.Rxa6 Rxc3 22.Rf1 g6 23.a4 Rb4 24.h4 Ra3 25.h5 Ra1+ 0-1

**Gardner - Ottosen
Game 2**

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.Be2 Bxe2 5.Nxe2 Qxd5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.c3 0-0-0 8.Nd2 e6 9.Qb3 Qf5 10.Nc4 g5 11.Be3 h5 12.Ng3 Qg6 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Ng4 15.Qa4 Nxe3 16.Qxa7 Nd5 17.Qa8+ Kd7 18.Qxb7 Qd3 19.Rfd1 Qc4 20.Rd4 Qc6 21.Qxc6+ Kxc6 22.c4 Kc5 23.Rad1 Bg7 24.cxd5 Bxe5 25.Ne4+ Kb5 26.R4d3 Ra8 27.Rb3+ Kc4 28.Nd2+ Kc5 29.Ne4+ Kc4 30.Nd2+ 1/2-1/2

Now to turn to the Reserves.

Eleven players started in the Reserves in round 1, but this was a bizarre tournament because new players joined every two rounds, as they were eliminated

(Continued on page 4)

EDMONTON CLOSED (Continued from page tournament because new players joined every two rounds, as they were eliminated from the Closed. As is evident from the Closed results, each batch of new players was stronger than the previous group so the tournament had an odd feel to it.

Through it all one player kept on winning and that was **Brian Knapper**, who finished in first place with 6/8 despite taking a zero point bye in the last round. Brian has recently moved to Edmonton from Saskatchewan, and he must like what he sees so far. After byes in the first two rounds, he won 5 games in a row. Other players with fine performances were **Terry Marks** and **Dawn Rock**, whose strong starts were rewarded with good rating gains.

Here is an interesting game between **John Mackey**, who has returned to the chess scene after an absence of several years, and young **Aleksander Kiyashitsky**, who has a rating of about 1600 after just two CFC-rated tournaments.

Kiyashitsky - Mackey

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.h5 Bh7 8.Bd3 Qxd4 9.Nf3 Qd5 10.Bxh7 Qxd1+ 11.Kxd1 Rxh7 12.Rh4 Nd7 13.a4 Ngf6 14.c4 e6 15.Ke2 Bd6 16.Nf1 c5 17.a5 Rh8 18.N1d2 0-0-0 19.Nb3 Rhe8 20.Be3 e5 21.Ne1 e4 22.Nd2 Nb8 23.Bf4 Nc6 24.Nc2 Nd4+ 25.Nxd4 cxd4 26.Bxd6 Rxd6 27.b4 Kc7 28.Nb3 d3+ 29.Ke3 Re5 30.Rd1 Rde6 31.Rdh1 Nd7 32.Nd4 Re7 33.Nb5+ Kb8 34.Nc3 f5 35.Nd5 Rf7 36.Rd1 Nf6 37.Kf4 Re8 38.Ne3 Nd7 39.Nxf5 Re5 40.g4 Re6 41.Ke3 Nf6 42.Nd4 Re8 43.Nf5 Kc7 44.c5 Nd5+ 45.Kd4 Nxb4 46.Kc4 Nc6 47.Nd6 Ne5+ 48.Kc3 Ree7 49.Nxf7 Rxf7 50.Rf1 e3 51.Rhh1 e2 52.Rb1 Rxf2 53.Kd2 Kc6 54.Ke3 Rf7 55.Rbc1 Rd7 56.Rb1 Nc4+ 57.Kf3 Nd2+ 0-1

PROVINCIAL CHESS CHALLENGE

By Glenn Booth

The provincial Chess Challenge was held in Red Deer on Saturday March 24. We had 82 participants, although there were only 2 players in each of grades 11 & 12. The winners in all grades except grade 8 were from Calgary. In most cases, it appeared as if the better players from Edmonton that I know of from previous years were in attendance. However, 3 good players were missing: Zhouan Li (grade 9), Nic Haynes (grade 11) and Louis Fok (grade 12).

This year we presented a plaque to David Bond of Peace River for his ongoing dedication to the Chess Challenge. This was the 11th straight year that David has run a regional tournament in Peace River, along with running a chess club at the school in which he teaches.

Furthermore, Leslie Mann and David Bond of Peace River have requested that they be allowed to host the 2003 Provincial Chess Challenge Championship. I am confident that they would do a great job.

Alberta Chess Challenge Champions – 2001

Grade 1:

1. Tomas Kaminski
2. Anthony Buitendyk
3. Yaroslav Babich

Grade 2:

1. Lucas Eshleman
2. Joshua Craigen
3. Daniel Horning

Grade 3:

1. Scott Malo
2. Eric Hansen
3. Ryan Guey

Grade 4:

1. Victor Kaminski
2. Karim Nurmohamed
3. Carter Dzuiba

Grade 5:

1. Brandon Eshleman
2. Megan Chi
3. Ross Chaudhry

Grade 6:

1. Shandy Booth
2. Daniel Guterman
3. Thomas West

Grade 7:

1. Ken Sun
2. Anastasia Kazakevich
3. Daniel Kazmaier

Grade 8:

1. Zhao Su Ye
2. Jonathan Chi
3. Nathan Adolph

Grade 9:

1. Jeffrey Mo
2. Rohan Karkhanis
3. Dusten Paton

Grade 10:

1. Richard Canal
2. Eric Wong
3. Joel Adolph

Grade 11:

1. Neil Campbell
2. Robert Yuan

Grade 12:

1. Daniel Adler
2. Ashley McCleod

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WORKSHOPS

YOU can join the exciting world of tournament directing.

Yes, you'll be the envy of your friends when they find out that **YOU** are running a chess tournament.

You will earn an honourarium of \$35 per day, the admiration and respect of the players, and the gratitude of the entire volunteer-driven chess community.

And best of all, we provide free training classes and donuts.

Wherever enough people are interested, the ACA will organize training sessions, about 4 hours on a convenient weekend.

If you've been on the playing end of the chess tournaments all your life, please consider "giving back" a little of yourself and help the ACA. There are no chess tournaments if there are no tournament directors.

For more information, please contact ACA President David Ottosen at dottosen@powersurfr.com or (780) 425-1584.

NORTHERN ALBERTA OPEN

By Adrien Regimbald, TD

Once again, I was called upon at the last moment to TD the Northern Alberta Open, which was held from February 24-25 in Edmonton. This year, I was acting as the replacement for David Ottosen, who had family commitments, which kept him away. The weekend also happened to coincide with the time Sebastian Sieber (who many of you may know from some of his visits to Canada from Germany in which he played in various tournaments) was going to be in Edmonton to visit. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to visit with an old friend, so I was out Friday until the wee hours of the morning.

So, it was a very groggy TD who showed up at the Prince of Wales Armouries on Saturday. In agreement with Murphy's Law, the TD was faced with an awkward decision right from the start of the tournament: Rob Gardner had said that Jeff Reeve was coming, but at 10am, there was no sign of him. Thankfully Jeff showed up not too much later, and a mad scramble to get the 1st round pairings up ensued with the help of John Quiring. In the end, this year's installment of the NAB Open had 29 participants, which was a pleasant surprise for the TD who had been told to expect a low turnout!

Round 1 proceeded as expected with the higher rated players warming up with the lower rated players. However, there was a complicated time-scramble dispute. A combination of miscommunication, lack of communication, and disagreement from the two players involved made a decision in a tricky situation even worse. In the end, both players managed to agree upon the course of events, but in the meantime the tournament was held up for almost an hour.

Round 2 provided some early excitement! With 5 masters in the tournament fighting for Alberta Closed spots, we were treated with a master-master match as early as the 2nd round! As a double treat, no "master draw" was agreed to, and master blood was spilt as Gardner defeated Yearwood.

Round 3 turned out to be a bit of a strange round. Perhaps the players were tired or hungry after a long day of chess, but in this round white only managed 2 wins and 2 draws on all 12 boards! It's not often that one sees the black boards dominating so strongly. Aside from this anomaly, this round saw another master-master match, but to the disappointment of the fans, the match Gardner - Reeve ended in a draw.

Round 4 started at 9am, to the dismay of many players (and the TDI!) Round 4 saw

the dominance by black continue with 9 wins and 2 draws on 14 boards. Perhaps these strange results can be accredited to weary chess players. While the games with the "heavies" were as always interesting, it was the game Quiring - Bertrand which the TD found the most exciting in this round. It features numerous changes as to who had the superior position, many dynamic considerations, and some very entertaining swashbuckling at the end! For the second round in a row, Haessel was paired against one of the top 2 players, and was disappointed with a second loss in a row. In the other master-master game of the round, Reeve and Yearwood agreed to a draw.

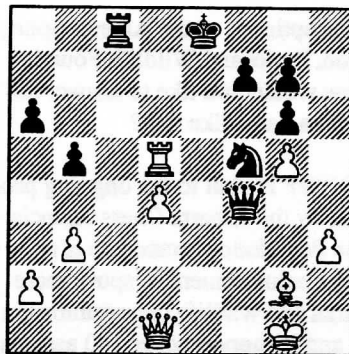
Round 5 featured a last round launch of Huber into the netherworld by the charged and determined Rob "The Rocket" Gardner as Rob took first place overall. Congratulations Rob! Perhaps this last round trouncing of team Calgary will inspire Calgary to at least field a complete team for the upcoming Battle of Alberta. However, this being Calgary we're talking about, we shouldn't set our hopes too high! At least Calgary has the NHL playoffs to look forward to - no wait, I must have misread the standings!

The final standings were:

1st Overall - Rob Gardner; 2nd Overall - Greg Huber and Jeff Reeve; 1st Under 2000 - Alex Kazakevich; 2nd Under 2000 - Bill Bently, Juraj Pivovarov, and Darryl Bertrand; First Under 1750 - Adam Tassone; 2nd Under 1750 - Simon Yewchuk and Greg Beebe; 1st Under 1600 - Terry Marks, Mark Stark, Dawn Rock, and Cor Dewindt.

Haessel - Huber

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 c5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 d4 9.e3 dxe3 10.fxe3 0-0 11.Na3 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.Nc4 Rc8 14.d3 b5 15.Nce5 Nxe5 16.Bxe5 Bd6 17.g4 Bxe5 18.Nxe5 Qd6 19.d4 Bg6 20.Nxg6 hxg6 21.g5 Nh5 22.Rc1 Ng3 23.Re1 cxd4 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.exd4 Nf5 26.Re5 a6 27.Rd5 Qf4



31.Kg1 Qd4+ 32.Kh2 Kh7 33.Rc7 Ne3 0-1

Reeve - Yearwood

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Be2 Bg7 6.Nb3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0 a5 9.a4 d6 10.Bg5 Be6 11.f4 Qb6+ 12.Kh1 Qb4 13.Nd5 Qxe4 14.Bf3 Qc4 15.Nb6 Qb4 16.Nxa8 Rxa8 17.Bh4 Bc4 18.Be1 Qb6 19.Bf2 Qb4 20.Be1 Qb6 21.Rg1 Nd7 22.Bc3 Bxb3 23.cxb3 Nd4 24.Re1 e6 25.Bxd4 Bxd4 26.Re2 d5 27.Rc2 Be3 28.g3 Nc5 29.Ra3 Qb4 30.Qe2 Bd4 31.Qd2 b6 32.Kg2 1/2-1/2

Quiring - Bertrand

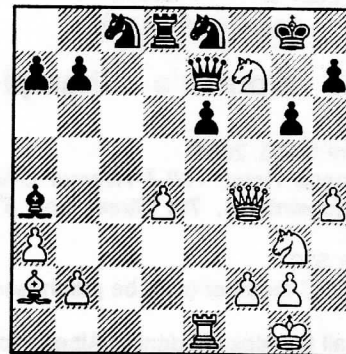
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.a3 Nc6 8.d3 d5 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Bd2 Rb8 11.Qa4 e6 12.Rac1 Re8 13.Rfe1 Nb6 14.Qa5 Nd4 15.Nxd4 cxd4 16.Ne4 Bd7 17.Qb5 Bc6 18.Bf4 e5 19.Bg5 f6 20.Bd2 a6 21.Bb4 Re6 22.Nc5 Re8 23.Nxa6 Bxg2 24.Nxb8 Bh3 25.Qc5 Nd5 26.Ba5 b6 27.Bxb6 Nxb6 28.Nc6 Qd5 29.Qxd5+ Nxd5 30.Rc5 Be6 31.b4 Nc3 32.Na5 Bd5 33.Nc4 Rb8 34.Kf1 Bf8 35.Rc7 Bxb4 36.axb4 Rxb4 37.e3 Bxc4 38.Rxc4 Rxc4 39.dxc4 d3 40.c5 d2 41.Ra1 Kf7 42.c6 Ke7 43.Ra7+ Ke6 44.Rd7 d1Q+ 45.Rxd1 Nxd1 46.Ke2 Nb2 0-1

Bertrand - Yearwood

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nh6 7.f3 f5 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Bxh6 Bxh6 10.Qd4 0-0 11.Nc3 Bg7 12.Qd3 Qa5 13.Kd2 fxe4 14.fxe4 Rb8 15.Kc2 Rf2+ 16.Be2 Rxb2+ 0-1

Gardner - Huber

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Ng3 Be7 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 c5 9.c3 0-0 10.0-0 cxd4 11.cxd4 Bd7 12.Ne5 Rc8 13.Re1 Nbd5 14.Bg5 Be8 15.a3 Qb6 16.Nf3 Bc6 17.Ne5 Be8 18.Rb1 Qd8 19.Qd3 Qb6 20.Bc2 Bb5 21.Qd2 Rfd8 22.Rbd1 Be8 23.h4 g6 24.Bb1 Ba4 25.Rc1 Ne8 26.Bxe7 Nxe7 27.Rxc8 Nxc8 28.Qf4 Qc7 29.Ba2 Qe7 30.Nxf7



30...Bd7 1-0

28.Rc5 Rd8 29.Qc1 Qxd4+ 30.Kh2 Qd6+

Alberta Closed

April 13-15, 2001

Ramada Hotel, 708-8 Avenue SW, Calgary (downtown, 7th Street and 8th Avenue)

8 player round robin event.

This year the players are:

Arthur Odachowski (2315)
defending champion

Robert Gardner (2363)
winner of the Edmonton Closed

Greg Huber (2343)
winner of the Alberta Open

Roy Yearwood (2193)
winner of the Over/Under 1800

Dale Haessel (2230)
winner of the Calgary Closed

Nic Haynes (1975)
winner of the Alberta Junior

Jeff Reeve (2308), qualified by rating

David Ottosen (2115), qualified by rating

Game times:

Apr 13: 11:00, 16:00

Apr 14: 10:00, 14:30, 19:00

Apr 15: 10:00, 15:00

Come *watch* the Closed players on Friday, then play along side them in the Reserves on Saturday and Sunday.

Alberta Reserves

Date: April 14-15, 2001

Site: Ramada Hotel, 708-8 Avenue SW, Calgary (downtown, 7th Street and 8th Avenue)

Registration: Saturday April 14, 9:00 - 9:45 sharp – **please be on time.**

Entry fee: \$20 regular, \$15 junior, \$5 option for youth under 14 with no prize eligibility

Must be CFC member (may be purchased on site)

Format: 5 round swiss

Schedule: Saturday 10:00, 14:30, 17:00

Sunday 10:00, 14:30

Time control: 30/90, game/45

TD: John Quiring 780-468-9173,

Alberta Women's Championship

Date: April 14-15, 2001

Site: Ramada Hotel, 708-8 Avenue SW, Calgary (downtown, 7th Street and 8th Avenue)

Entry fee: \$20

Must be CFC member (may be purchased on site)

Open to all females resident in Alberta for 6 months

Format: and time control depend on the number of entrants

Registration: Saturday April 14, 9:00 - 9:45

TD: John Quiring 780-468-9173

ALBERTA OVER/UNDER 1800

By John Quiring, TD

The Over/Under was held in Edmonton but you could hardly tell that from the final results as Calgarians took three of the top four spots in the Over 1800 section. The best result was turned in by **Chris Kuczaj**, with an eye-catching performance rating of 2400, but it was **Roy Yearwood** who had the better tie-break to capture the coveted spot in the Alberta Closed that goes to the tournament winner.

There were 14 players in the Over 1800 section. Rob Gardner was top-rated by almost 100 points, but his chances of winning were dealt a hefty blow in round 3 due to a loss to Chris Kuczaj. Chris then drew the other master, Roy Yearwood, in round 4 which set up an exciting final round. Chris and Roy led with 3.5, and Rob followed just a half point back.

Here are the key final round games:

R. Gardner - R. Yearwood

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Be2 Nc6 8.Qd2 O-O 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bh6 Rb8 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.b3 Qa5 13.h4 h5 14.f3 d5 15.e5 Nd7 16.f4 Nc5 17.Ne4 Qxd2+ 18.Nxd2 Bf5 19.O-O-O Ne6 20.Rdf1 a5 21.Bd3 a4 22.Be2 axb3 23.axb3 c5 24.g3 Nd4 25.Bd1 c4 26.bxc4 dxc4 27.c3 Ne6 28.Bc2 Bd3 29.Bxd2 cxd3 30.Rf3 Nc5 31.Rhf1 Rb7 32.Nc4 Nb3+ 33.Kd1 Rc8 34.Nb2 Rxc3 35.Nxd3 Nd4 36.Kd2 Rbb3 37.R1f2 Nxf3+ 38.Rxf3 e6 39.Re3 Ke8 40.Rf3 Ke7 41.Ke2 Rc2+ 42.Ke3 Kd7 43.Kd4 Kc6 44.Ke4 Rd4+ 45.Ke3 Ke5 46.Ke2 Kd4 47.Ne1 Rcc3 48.Rxc3 Rxc3 49.Nf3+ Ke4 50.Ng5+ Kf5 51.Kf2 Rd3 52.Nxf7 Kg4 53.Ng5 Rxc3 54.Nxe6 Rf3+ 55.Ke2 Rh3 56.Ng5 Ra3 57.e6 Kxf4 58.Kf2 Ra2+ 59.Kf1 Ra7 60.Ke2 Ra3 61.Kd2 Re3 62.Kc2 Kg4 63.Kd2 Kf4 64.Kc2 Kf5 65.Kd2 Rxe6 66.Nxe6 Kxe6 67.Ke2 Kf6 68.Kf2 Kf5

ALBERTA SPORT, RECREATION, PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Pity the receptionist at the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation. How would you like to answer the phone with a name like that?

The ASRPWF is vital to the ongoing programs run by the Alberta Chess Association. The Foundation's mandate is to support the enhancement of sport, recreation, parks and wildlife opportunities in Alberta, and it supports over 100 associations who in turn provide services to Albertans.

69.Kf3 Ke5 70.Ke3 1/2-1/2

C. Kuczaj - K. Boehmer

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cd Nxd5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 g6 7.Qb3 e6 8.O-O Bg7 9.Ne4 b6 10.Qb5 Qd7 11.Nc3 O-O 12.Qb3 Ne7 13.d3 Bb7 14.Bd2 Nf5 15.Nb5 e5 16.a4 Nd4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 exd4 20.Rac1 Rfe8 21.Rfe1 Re6 22.Bf4 Rae8 23.e4 de 24.Rxe3 Be5 25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.Rcd1 Qd4 27.RxR RxR 28.RxR QxR 29.Qc3 Qxc3 30.bxc3 f5 31.Kf3 Kf7 32.Ke3 Ke6 33.f4 Kd5 34.c4 Kc6 35.Kd2 Kd6 1/2-1/2

The final result saw Chris Kuczaj and Roy Yearwood share first place money with 4/5, and Roy won the tie break to qualify for the Closed. Among the other players, Kim Nguyen had a fine tournament, winning his last round game to pull into a tie with Rob Gardner for 3rd overall with 3.5/5.

The Under 1800 section was the larger of the two, with 20 players. About half the players were bunched closely in rating at the top of the crosstable, so this would be a real dog fight. The only undefeated player was **George Skrzypniak** who gave up two draws on the way to a 4/5 score, and shared the top dollars with **Alex Kazakevich** who won 4 games and lost 1. Following were **Peter Lacroix**, **John Anderson** and **David Milward** with 3.5 points. Peter's result was particularly notable as he was one of the lowest rated players. Also posting good results were the juniors **Simon Yewchuk** and **Adam Tassone**, who were forced to earn respect over the chessboard because they couldn't get any from their ridiculously undervalued ratings.

Many thanks to the players who showed up, and thanks to the ACA for guaranteeing a prize fund of \$600.00 for this tournament.

This year the ACA will receive over \$9000.00 from the ASRPWF, which we will use to rent tournament sites, fund our champions to travel to national championships, publish the *ACR*, provide training opportunities for TDs, and support clubs throughout the province.

We gratefully acknowledge this financial support.

John Quiring, Treasurer

MEDICINE HAT OPEN

By Bill Taylor

One year ago a subtle "challenge" was issued by your intrepid reporter on the pages of the ACR to any Lethbridge tournament-playing chess players. As the regular reader will know, none had ever appeared at the previous five Medicine Hat OPEN Chess Tournaments. I was midly despairing that they didn't exist.

Would the challenge be answered? Well, yes sir indeedly. Imagine my surprise and delight when not one, not two, but SIX Lethbridgers arrived. A veritable busload. Their prolific numbers almost (but not quite) overshadowed the Edmonton contingent, lead by the ever faithful, ever amusing, "Big John" Quiring. In total, 6 Edmontonians made the trip. Calgary was ably represented by the trio of Roy Yearwood, Kris Boehmer and Chris Kuczaj, representing a 50% increase over last year's pathetic (oops—poor) representation. Except for two Medicine Hatters (Adam Szulski and myself), Medicine Hat chess players were apparently all sick, dying, dead, or otherwise unproductively (from a chess point of view) occupied. Even my own son wouldn't come. (Arggg!!) When all was said and done, we had 17 participants. A heartfelt Thank you to all who came.

A most eventful and completely unpredictable start to the tournament than I had planned was a new "feature" this year (but not one I wish repeated). A change in circumstances at the tournament's previous site (Barney's Restaurant) necessitated a change in venues. For several reasons, I selected our usual Medicine Hat Chess Club (MHCC) quarters, the Southview Community School (SCS). As all Tournament Directors (Tds) will know, one of the crucial prerequisites of any suitable venue, is the ability to actually get inside the venue to actually get to the tournament hall. This was the unpleasant surprise that fate had in store for me when I arrived at SCS at 08:35. In my quest for life-sustaining nutrition and the exchange of pleasantries with one of my Edmonton billets, my wife and I neglected to leave on time, arriving 5 minutes late at the school. To my horror, I realized the comforting presence of the Wackenhutt Security car/guard (who opens the school on weekends) was lacking. "Oh my God" I thought, "he's come and gone". This was exactly what happened. I found out later he had come at around 08:25 - 08:30, opened (or so he thought) the school, turned off the alarm and departed for his other duties. With no security car/guard present, I had this awful sinking feeling as I got out of my car to try the front door. LOCKED! No

problem (I hoped) - activate plan B.

I left my wife and supplies at the front door and drove down the road to the nearby Burger King restaurant. They very kindly allowed me to use their phone to call the cell phone for the on duty security guard. In months gone by I had called this number successfully on numerous occasions. Imagine my distress when my one and only perceived lifeline was greeted by the reply: The cellular customer you are calling is not available. Please try again later. Arggg!! Now what to do? Back to the school I headed with the faint and probably unrealistic hope that "he's late". No such luck. At this point, any reasonable person starts to bemoan (and perhaps curse) the fact that they have no solidly thought out contingency plan C, D, E or F. So you make them up on the spot. Plan C was initiated with my wife driving to the security company's downtown location and me sitting helplessly by the school with the unpleasant reality that the security company has come and gone, I can't get into the school, and some of my participant will soon be arriving.

The participants started arriving at 0920 and I must say with gratitude, that everyone was verbally accepting of my predicament and attempts to rectify matters. By about 1000 it was apparent that Plan C was a failure, for reasons that weren't entirely clear to me. Now what to do? Try Plan D! It was my good fortune that one of my Lethbridge participants, Graham Sorgard, had a cell phone with him. He kindly allowed me to use his cell phone to call my wife at home to ask her to call school officials. "Try the teacher I know who works at this school". Five minutes later I learned there is no answer at her house. No problem. On to Plan E. Call the higher-ups at the school board, including the superintendent if necessary.

Finally success was mine. My wife reached the Assistant Superintendent (Business Administrator and Secretary-Treasurer) who indicated he might have a key, and yes, he'd be happy to come down to the school to try it. As those in attendance know, this gentleman arrived at about 1050, and we were finally able to get into the school. With the able assistance of Brian Titley (thank you Brian) registrations and pairings were accomplished in quick order and we were able to get play underway approximately one hour late. A slight modification to the time controls allowed the 3 rounds to finish on time Saturday evening. Did I come up with a Plan F, you may be wondering? Well, yes, actually I did, but only Big John will know the sordid details. I hope this tale of woe has amused

you and will encourage other Tds to consider contingency plans to correctable pitfalls in planning and running a tournament. Is there a moral to this story? YES! Be on time or have your own key to your proposed venue.

What were the results in the ensuing calmness that followed the start to Saturday morning? I'm happy to report that this year saw two new winners step to the front of the line: Roy Yearwood and Kris Boehmer. Both finished with identical 4/5 scores. The first place plaque was awarded to Kris on tie-break, thanks to my last round loss to Micah Hughey. Sorry about that, Roy. Chris Kuczaj (a 2 time champion) and Micah Hughey tied for third place at 3.5/5. There were other solid performances turned in (notably by Adrien Regimbald and Simon Yewchuk) and I'm happy to report that no one was entirely shut out.

The continuing presence of "Big John" (Quiring) is an ongoing inspiration to this TD. John is distinguished (besides his wit, charm and good looks!) as the only out-of-towner who has attended all our tournaments thus far. No one else can lay claim to this perfect record. Way to go John! Now if he could only elevate his play to secure a historic place on the WINNER's plaques of the coveted TAYLOR CUP, his life would be complete. Without his periodic pairing with your faithful reporter, he was deprived of an easy victory (John "owns" me, but I "own" Ford). Instead, a pummeling was administered at the hands of another tall fellow with glasses (who shall remain nameless on these pages). [Sounds like Adrien Regimbald to me.--J. Quiring]

Free coffee, muffins, and Werther's Originals were enjoyed by the participants, courtesy of the Medicine Hat Chess Club, Safeway, and the generous support of 13 local sponsors. Thanks to these sponsors, \$99 was injected into the prize fund and Lunch For A Buck was again offered on Sunday to all our players. This consisted of delicious country chicken vegetable soup, 3 choices of bunwiches, and a vegetable tray with dip courtesy of my gifted and hardworking wife Margaret. Where else in this day and age can you purchase a tasty, filling soup and sandwich lunch for \$1.00? Is this an idea worthy of support elsewhere? I think so. Until next year.

Bill Taylor - Roy Yearwood

[Notes by Taylor]

1.f4 d6 2.Nf3 f5 3.b3 Nf6 4.Bb2 g6 5.e3 5.Bxf6 exf6 is interesting. It makes kingside castling unattractive for Black at the expense of weakened dark squares for

(Continued on page 8)

MEDICINE HAT OPEN (Continued from page White. I suspect Black would stand better in the long run.

5...Bg7 6.c4 6.d4 c5 7.d5 e6 8.c4 ed 9.cd O-O leaves White uncastled with a backward e3 pawn.

6...O-O 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.a3

8.d4 must be played now. The opportunity is now lost for a long time.

8...e5 9.fe de 10.Be2

There is no really satisfactory move.

10...e4 11.Ng5 Ng4 12.h4

The only move.

12...N4e5 13.g3

The threat was 13...h6 where the best response 14.N5xe4 fxe4 15.Nxe4 won't likely be sufficient.

13...Qd6 14.Rg1

The only move to save g3.

14...Rd8 15.Nb5 Qe7 16.Nd4 Nd3+

17.Bxd3 Bxd4 18.Bxd4 Nxd4 19.Be2 Nc6

20.b4 Ne5 21.Qb3 Nd3+ 22.Kf1 Be6

23.Qc3 h6 24.Nh3

24.Nf3? loses to 24...exf3 25.Bxd3 Qd7

24...Rd7 25.Rd1 25.Nf4

Nxf4 26.exf4 Rad8 27.Rd1 looks equal.

25...Kh7 26.Rh1 Rad8 27.Nf4

27.Ng5? doesn't quite work: 27...Kg8 (not

27...hxg5?? 28.hg+ Kg8 29.Qh8+ Kf7

30.Rh7++) 28.Bd3 Rxd3 29.Qe5 Bxc4!!

(not 29...R3d6 30.Nxe6 Qxe6 31.Qc3 Re3

32.Qc1) 30.Qxe7 Rxd2+ 31.Kg1 Rxd1

32.Kh2 R8d2+ 33.Kh3 Rxh1++

27...Nxf4 28.gf Qg7 29.Qc2

Leaving the queen where she is could lose

the c-pawn. 29...c5 30. b5 30.bc Qe7

31.d4 ed 32.Bxd3 Qxc5 with tactics for

both sides (33.Kf2 is best; 33.Ke2?? loses

to 33... Rxe3!)

30...Qf7 31.Ke1 a6 32.a4 ab 33.a6 Ra8

34.Kf2 Qf6 35.Rb1?

White underestimates the importance of

an open d-file. 35.Qc3 was necessary with

the following possible lines: (a) 35...Qxc3

36.dxc3 Rxd1 37.Rxd1 Ra2 38.Ke1 Rc2

39.Rd6 Bf7 40.Rd7 Kg7 (40...Kg8 is also

inadequate: 41.Rd8+ Kg7 42.Rb8 b6

43.Rxb6 Rxc3 44.Kd2 Ra3 45.Rc6 Ra2+

46.Ke1 Ra1+ 47.Kf2 with a strong position)

41.Rxb7 Rxc3 42.Kd2 Ra3 43.Rc7 Ra2+

44.Ke1 Ra1+ 45.Kf2 and Black cannot

save the c-pawn. (b) 35...Kg7 36.Ra1 Qxc3

(36...Rdd8 37.Ra3=; or 36...Rxa1?!

37.Rxa1 axc3 38.dxc3 Rd2 39.Ke1 trans-

posing to the line above) 37.dxc3 Rdd8

38.Rhc1 =

35...b6 36.Qb2 Qf7 37.Rhc1?!

37...Rda7 38.Rxa7 Rxa7 39.Ra1 Rxa1

40.Qxa1 Bxc4? 41.Bxc4 Qxc4 42.Qa7+

Kg8 43.Qxb6 Kg7 44.Qx7+ Qf8 and the

active queen and passed b-pawn win for

(White)

38.Rxa1 Qg7 not 38...Bxc4? 39.Ra8! Qg7

40.Qxg7+ Kxg7 41.Bxc4 39.Qxg7+ Kxg7

40.Ke1=

37...Ra4?! 38.Qc3?

Another missed opportunity for counter-play. Instead, play 38.Ra1! Rda7 39.Rxa4 Rxa4 40.Ra1 Rxa1 41.Qxa1 Qd7= (not 41...Bxc4? 42.Bxc4 Qxc4 43.Qa7+ etc (see above))

38...Qg7 39.Qxg7+?!

This may represent another missed opportunity. 39.Ra1 Qxc3 40.dxc3 Rda7

41.Rxa4 Rxa4 42.Rd1 Bxc4 43.Rd7 Kg8

44.Bxc4 Rxc4 45.Rd6 Kf7 46.Rxb6 Rxc3

47.Rc6 (If 47.h5? g5! [47...gh 48.Rxh6 Rb3

49.b6 h4 50.Rc6 Rb2+ 51.Kg1 Ke7

52.Rxc5 may offer White winning chances]

48.Rxh6 gf 49.b6 Rxe3 50.b7 Rb3 51.Rh7+

Kf6 52.Rc7 and White does not have suffi-

cient compensation for his 2 passed

pawns) 47...h5 48.b6 Rb3 49.Rxc5 Rxc6

and I believe Black can grind out a win with

accurate play.

39...Kxg7 40.Rc2 Kf6 41.Rg1

41.Rbb2 intending 42.Ra2 is a better try.

41...Ra3 42.Rb1 Rda7 43.Rbc1 Try

43.Rbb2

43...R7a4 44.Ke1 g5 45.hg hg 46.gf+

Kxg5 47.Kf2

47.Kf2 is probably better.

47...Ra2 48.Rg1+ Kf6 49.Rgc1 R4a3

50.Bf1 Ke5 51.Bh3 Bf7 52.Bf1 f4 53.ef+

Kxf4 54.Be2 Rxc2 55.Rxc2 Ke5 56.Rc1?

White must try 56.Rc3 and now if

56...Rxc3 57.dxc3 and hope for an

endgame inaccuracy by Black in order to

draw, e.g. 57...Kf4 58.Bf1 e3+? (winning is

58...Bh5! 59.Ke1 Ke3 60.Bh3 Kd3 61.Bf1+

Kxc3 62.Kf2 Kd4 and White is lost) 59.Ke1

Bh5 60.Bd3 (60.Be2? Bxe2 61.Kxe2 Ke4

62.K any Kd3) 60...Bf3 61.Bf1 Ke4 62.Be2!

Bd4 63.Bxf3 Kxd3 64.Kf1 and White has

the opposition and forces a draw)

56... Kd4 57.Bf1 Ra2 58.Kc1 Ra4 59.Rc3

Bxc4 60.Bxc4 Rxc4 0-1

Bill Taylor - Derek Lactin

[Notes by Taylor]

1.f4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3

This move follows naturally after 3.c4 and

establishes a pleasing visual symmetry. I'm

not sure I've ever had this position after 4

moves.

4...d5

The best move. It prevents 5.e4

5.e3 c5 6.cd Nxd5 7.Bb5+ Bd7

The only move.

8.Qb3 Nxc3

8...e6 was also considered by Black, but in

the end he was concerned by 9.Ne5 and

opted to exchange knights and then castle

to safety. 8...Nb4 is interesting but doesn't

lead to any clear advantage e.g. 9.a3 Bxb5

10.Nxb5 Nd3+ 11.Ke2 Nxc1 12.Raxc1

9.bxc3 O-O 10.Bxd7

Unimaginative! I simply decided to ex-

change the light squared bishop. 10.O-O is

probably better.

10...Qxd7 11.Ba3?!

The bishop does not belong here at this

time, as subsequent play clearly demon-

strates. 11.d4 is probably best here. Even

11.O-O is acceptable.

11...Qc7 12.Qd5?!

A second consecutive error. This is just

plain dumb, as White has no forced win of

material, and is neglecting castling. 12.d4

or 12.O-O are both fine.

12...Na6!

Punish a bad move with a good move. Now

the two rooks are connected.

13.f5?!

Further stupidity. 13.O-O is still called for. I

reasoned that if I didn't play f5 now, Black

would play e6, taking away this move.

13...Qa5

Of course! This makes perfect sense. Pun-

ish White for his sloppy play.

14.Bb2 Qb5 15.Rb1 Rad8 16.Qc4 Qd3

Forcing the exchange of queens and guar-

anteeing a pesky presence on d3.

17.Qxd3 Rxd3 18.Ke2 Rfd8 19.fg

19.Nd4!? was a possibility I never even

considered during the game. A likely possi-

ble continuation is 19...c4 (relatively

forced) 20.fg hg 21.Bc1 Bxd4 22.exd4 b6

23.Rb5 unclear.

19...hg 20.c4

20.Ba3 hoping to provoke 20...b6? could

have been tried, but I never "saw" Nd4 until

after the game. Of course 20...R8d7 is the

correct reply to 20.Ba3. My hope was Black

would exchange bishops, improving my

queen rook's position.

20...b6

Black has other ideas.

21.Bxg7

21.Nd4? doesn't work anymore owing to

21...Nb4! 22.a3 exd4 23.axb4 de 24.Bxg7

Rxd2+ 25.Kxe3 R8d3+ 26.Kf4 Kxg7 with

clear advantage to Black. 21.Rhd1 was

worth a try.

21...Kxg7 22.Rb3 Nb4 23.Ra1 Rxb3

24.axb3 a5 25.d4

Finally I'm able to play this freeing move.

At this point, I thought I stood slightly better

and felt it was worthwhile playing on look-

ing for a win. I wasn't content to settle for a

draw.

25...cd 26.ed Nc2 27.Rd1 e6 28.Rd2

I looked at Kd3 aiming to position my king

on c3 but reasoned that 26...Nxd4!

27.Nxd4 e5 28.Ke4 exd4 29.Rxd4 Re8+!

30.Kd3 Re6 left me with no way through.

28...Nb4 29.Ke3 a4!

Impressive! Forcing the exchange of the

b-pawn and giving the rook counterplay.

30.ba Ra8 31.Ne5 Rxa4 32.Nd7 b5

33.c5?!

After this move, there are no obvious fur-

ther winning chances. 33.c5 is the only

way to hold out for a win. Black should be

able to defend easily with 33...Nd5+

34.Ke2 b4. White's aspirations were nicely

thwarted by Black and in the end he

earned the draw he had requested about

If this information is incorrect, contact the Editor (see page 2)

CALGARY CHESS CLUB

Meets at Elephant&Castle Restaurant,
8th Ave and 4th St SW,
Tues 7:00 - 11:00
Contact: Mike Smith (403) 263-5251

EDMONTON CHESS CLUB

Meets: Prince Of Wales Armoury,
Suite 114A, 10440 - 108 Ave.,
Edmonton AB T5H 3Z9
entrance at south west corner,
open 7-11 pm.

Monday--casual chess tournaments, no membership fees; relaxed noise controls.
Thursday--CFC-rated tournaments, CFC membership required; strict playing conditions.

Info: club phone (780) 424-0283
Bob Davies (780) 474-0196

Schedule: A new tournament starts the first Thursday of every month.

GRANDE PRAIRIE CHESS CLUB

Meets: Royal Canadian Legion,
9912-101 Ave,
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
September thru April

Info: Phil Lefkowitz (780) 538-1903

Mail: c/o 9905 75 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 6G2.

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES CC

Info: Bernie Tynan (780) 771-3757.

MEDICINE HAT CHESS CLUB

Meets: Southview Community School,
Coffee corner room
Wednesdays 7-10:15,
during the school year
Info: Bill Taylor (403) 526-5484.

LETHBRIDGE CHESS CLUB

Junior and adults
Meets: University Of Lethbridge
Room A844
Tues 7:00 pm, Sept through April
Info: Brian Titley (403) 380-6751

LLOYDMINSTER CHESS CLUB

Meets: Cappucino Voltaire Coop,
on 50 Street
Tues 7:30 pm.
Info: Doug (780) 825-0528
Eugene Gibney (780) 875-6352

HINTON CHESS CLUB

Meets: Queens Bakery and Cafe
124 Market Street
Mon 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Info: Peter Bundscherer (780) 865-5050

ALBERTA CLOSED

April 13-15, 2001

ALBERTA RESERVES

April 14-15, 2001

ALBERTA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

April 14-15, 2001

Details: See page 6

EDMONTON CHESS CHALLENGE REGIONAL
By Alan Clark

This year's turnout was much lower than normal, the reasons for which are unclear and require further analysis. However, being a volunteer at this tournament was a lot of fun and I think all the participants similarly enjoyed themselves.

I took control of the grade one contest, which was won by Anthony Buitendyk, and marveled at the immaculate behavior of the kids, and decided not to worry too much about the day in the future when they are showing ME how to play.

The tournament was managed by John Quiring, Ford Wong and Peter Alderton. They were abetted by Daryl Bertrand, Peter Lacroix, Rob Gardner, Nic Haynes, Dave Gomboc, Alex Kazakevich, Adam Tassone, and myself. Apologies to anyone I may have missed.

One of the most interesting confrontations was the grade 7 playoff between Stacy Kazakevich and her opponent whose name I unfortunately do not know. They decided to share the prize after three, hard-fought battles.

I do not have a list of winners, but Dave Gomboc submitted this game:

Jonathan Chi - Zhaosu Ye

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be3 O-O 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. Be2 e5 8. O-O Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Nc6 10. d5 Ne7 11. Qd2 Qd7 12. Bh6 Ng4 13. Bxg4 Qxg4 14. Bxg7 Kxg7 15. f4 Kg8 16. fxe5 dxe5 17. Rf3 Qd7 18. Qh6 f5 19. Raf1 f4 20. g3 Qg4 21. Kh1 g5 22. h3 Qd7 23. Qxg5+ Ng6 24. gxf4 exf4 25. Kh2 Kh8 26. Ne2 Qd6 27. Kh1 Qe5 28. Qxe5+ Nxe5 29. Rxf4 Rxf4 30. Rxf4 Nxc4 31. b3 Ne5 32. Rf5 Re8 33. Nc3 a6 34. Kg2 Kg7 35. Kg3 Ng6 36. h4 b5 37. a3 c5 38. dxc6 Rc8 39. Rc5 Ne7 40. c7 Kf7 41. Nd5 Nxd5 42. exd5 Ke7 43. Kf4 Kd7 44. Ke5 Rxc7 45. Rxc7+ Kxc7 46. Ke6 Kd8 47. Kd6 Ke8 48. Kc7 Ke7 49. d6+ Ke6 50. d7 Ke5 51. d8=Q Kf5 52. Qe7 Kf4 53. Kd6 Kf3 54. Kd5 Kf4 55. Qe4+ Kg3 56. Qf5 Kxh4 57. Ke4 Kg3 58. Qf3+ Kh4 59. Qg2 h5 60. Kf4 a5 61. Qg3# 1-0

COMING SOON

Abe Yanofsky Memorial

May 26-27, 2001

Edmonton Chess Club

Contact: Adam Tassone

Canada Day Open

June 30 - July 1, 2001

Hampton inn & Suites

2231 Banff Trail NW, Calgary

5 round swiss system

Registration: June 30, 9:00 - 9:45

Entry fee: \$20 adult, \$15 junior,

\$5 option for youth under 14 with no prize eligibility.

Contact: Ron Hinds (403) 201-1653

TOP ALBERTANS

Includes player who were active during the last 12 months

RANK	NAME	RATING
1	Oliver Schulte	2454
2	Rob Gardner	2363
3	Greg Huber	2343
4	Arthur Odachowski	2315
5	Jeff Reeve	2308
6	Fred South	2276
7	Christopher Demers	2259
8	Eugene Gibney	2239
9	Dale Haessel	2230
10	Andrew Lapides	2226
11	Sasha Grumic	2214
12	Roy Yearwood	2193
13	David Ottosen	2120
14	Kris Boehmer	2114
15	Micah Hughey	2110
16	Grant Brown	2076
17	Brian Knapper	2074
18	Jim Daniluk	2072
19	Ron Hinds	2032
20	Kim Nguyen	2027
21	Alan Clark	2023
22	Dave Gomboc	2004

Answer to puzzle on page 9

1. Bd6! 1-0