

Alberta Chess Report



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Richard Wang becomes the youngest Alberta Champion in history at the age of 13



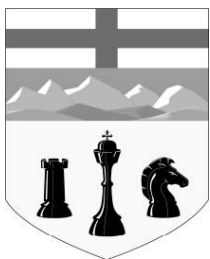
Photo:: Jina Burn

April Fools tournament takes place in Fort McMurray



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It took 78 years, but Alberta is once again represented at the world's biggest team event.



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

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

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NM Jeff Reeve.

IM Porper,Edward (2438) - NM Yam,Alex (2246) [A60]
(annotated by: IM Edward Porper)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 Bd6

This weird-looking move is quite playable - at least, if we judge by the fact that it has been tried by many strong GMs, and with a fair amount of success. On the other hand, Black's choice allows White to make a crucial decision thus shaping the course of events in the middle-game - for a simple reason that "d6" is obviously but a temporary station for the B. Sooner or later it will have to move to c7, and it will be up to White to speed the piece even farther on, to "a5", or let Black regroup with ...d7-d6. The former case would shed some light on a crucial question: where does this B actually belong to? Benoni's pawn structure determines that the brunt of White's attack will in most cases be directed against the "d6" pawn, while in some of those cases White's "e" pawn will serve as a battering ram. If Black develops his B on "g7", it might be able to exert some pressure along the main diagonal and keep an eye on "e5" but its ability to protect the "d" pawn will remain limited. To cope with this particular task much better, the B could go to "e7" but its presence there would hamper the interaction between Black's other pieces - and besides, it would have no say in preventing the "e4-e5 breakthrough. Surprisingly, the "c7" location allows the B to perform both tasks at the same time. On the top of this obvious advantage, the "g" pawn doesn't have to hurry to "g6" - consequently, there is no weakening of the "a1-h8" diagonal, and a useful square may later serve as a springboard for one of Black's Ns on its way to "e5" or "f4"

6.Nc3 0-0

[For the above-mentioned reasons, White is often tempted to meet 6...Bc7 with 7.d6 thus cutting Black's position in two halves. After 7...Ba5 8.Bg5 (8.g3 0-0 9.Bg2 Ne4 10.Qd3 Qf6 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Re8 leads to a very complex and utterly unbalanced position where White's dynamic potential seems to cancel out and often outweigh his structural deficiencies) 8...Qb6 9.Bxf6 Qxb2 10.Bxg7 (A pawn-sacrifice 10.Qc1 Qxc1+ 11.Rxc1 gxf6 is also playable but looks more dubious) 10...Bxc3+ 11.Bxc3 Qxc3+ 12.Nd2 an



Richard Wang takes over Alberta Chess Championship

By: Vlad Rekhson

In 2008, the now IM Eric Hansen became the youngest ever Alberta Champion at the age of 15. At the time it seemed that this incredible record will not be broken for many years to come. Lo and behold, 2012 rolled around the corner and we have a new record holder. National Master, Richard Wang won the Provincial championship at the age of 13! This year's event took place in the Edmonton Chess Club, during the Easter Weekend. A total of six participants took part, qualifying to the tournament by either winning a qualifier or having a high enough rating. The winner of the Alberta Closed, along with the prestigious title, is awarded with funding towards his participation in the 2012 Canadian Closed in Montreal.

IM Edward Porper was the pre-tournament favourite, but recent results have shown that his victory is far from assured as his top rivals were playing some high quality chess going into the event.

Round 1:

NM Richard Wang drew against IM Edward Porper. After the game, Edward mentioned that he missed a chance to get into a much better position had he played the correct move at one point. After that,

it seemed like Richard closed the game and allowed no chances. The ever dangerous NM Alex Yam defeated the current Edmonton champion, FM Vladimir Pechenkin. NM Jeff Reeve doesn't play that much nowadays, but in round 1 he showed that he still remembers how to play the game, as he defeated the 2011 Southern Alberta champion-NM Daniel Kazmaier.

Round 2:

IM Edward Porper was beaten by NM Alex Yam at the 2012 Northern Alberta Open. He didn't want history to repeat itself as he confidently defeated Alex in a game that was later chosen to be co-winner of the best game contest. NM Daniel Kazmaier played aggressively against NM Richard Wang, but eventually Richard was able to overcome the attack and won. FM Vladimir Pechenkin obtained his first win of the event against



CTV interviews Richard Wang

players. For example white's 30th move was marked with two question marks by Edward and with an exclamation mark by Daniel.

IM Porper,Edward (2438) - NM Kazmaier,Dan (2243)

Annotated by: IM Edward Porper (E.P) and NM Daniel Kazmaier (D.K)

1.d4 f5 2.c4 d6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5?!(E.P)

E.P [Not the best move if White plays for an advantage 4.g3 transposing to the main line is a superior option]

4...e6

E.P [In a way it's more precise than 4...Nbd7 allowing White to complicate matters after 5.Qc2 g6 6.h4 Bg7 7.Nh3]

D.K Having little time to prepare, I hoped to steer the game towards a positional "bunny" Dutch setup, with the idea of bringing the Queen to g6 or h5 via e8. The black-squared bishop can also find a home on d8 if the c6 pawn is attacked. [4...Nbd7 5.Qc2 g6 6.e4 fxe4 7.Nxe4 Bg7 8.Nf3 Nxe4 9.Qxe4 Nf6 10.Qe3 The main-line where black should feel comfortable, but I was hoping to sidestep Edward's preparation.]

5.e4 [Both 5.e3 and; 5.f3 have been tried in this position but White's occasional successes had very little to do with the opening]

5...fxe4 6.Nxe4

E.P [Lputjan preferred 6.Bxf6 and after 6...Qxf6 7.Nxe4 Qd8 8.Nf3 Be7 9.Bd3 0-0 10.h4 he managed to beat a lower-rated opponent in a highly unbalanced game. Yet it seems Black has plenty of room to improve upon the text] **6...Be7 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.Nf3 Nc6!**

E.P Probably, the key-move summing up the opening and stripping White of any advantage-related dreams. The N belongs to "c6" where it harrasses the "d" pawn (that's why it shouldn't rush to "d7" on move 4)

9.Nxf6+

E.P [9.Bd3? Bxd4! (9...Nxd4?? 10.Nxf6+ Qxf6 11.Nxd4 Qxd4 12.Bg6+) 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Qh5+ g6 and White hardly has a sniff of compensation for the pawn]

9...Qxf6 10.Bd3 0-0

E.P [A natural but not the best move. 10...e5 would immediately equalize for Black as after 11.dxe5 (11.Be4? Nxd4 (11...exd4 12.Bxc6+ bxc6 13.Qxd4 Qe6+ is also possible but it's better to win a pawn, of course) 12.Nxd4 exd4μ) 11...Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Qxe5+ 13.Qe2 Qxe2+

there is virtually nothing to play for]

11.0-0

E.P [11.Be4 e5 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.0-0 Bg4 15.Re1 Rad8 16.Qe2 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qxf3 18.Qxf3 Rxf3 19.Rxe5 Rd2 doesn't promise White too much joy]

11...g6?! (E.P) ?+-(D.K)

E.P [Unlike on the previous move, this case of procrastination is much graver. 11...e5 was necessary - and quite sufficient to forget about any troubles for the rest of the game. White's problem is that he can't really play 12.d5 because it would cripple his B. This stray piece initially belongs to the "h1-a8" diagonal (hence the necessity of an early "g2-g3") - anywhere else it finds itself completely out of its element. After an obvious 12...Ne7 there is no favourable trade of minors for White. If he gets rid of the B by taking the N when it comes to "f5", his own N will have no outposts while the remaining black B might prove some nuisance for the Q-side pawn chain. The alternative - to trade the white N for the B is even worse - the remaining N will grow roots on "d4", and the stray B will remain ineffective. Possible variations could be 13.Be4 (13.Nd2 Nf5 14.Bxf5 Bxf5 15.f3 Bd3 16.Re1 Qf4) 13...Bg4 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Nf5]

D.K [Black creates unnecessary weaknesses on the kingside, and should instead continue his development with a quick: 11...e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qb3 Bg4]

12.Be4 Bd7

E.P [Now the game is entering a new phase: 12...e5 13.Bxc6 bxc6 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Qe1 Re8 16.Qe3 followed by Nd2, Rfe1, b3 etc leaves black pawns in shambles, and once so feasible e6-e5 breakthrough suddenly becomes but a distant prospect]

13.Qd2! (D.K)

D.K A great move that strengthens the second-rank, and prepares the rooks to swing into action on the d and e files.

Qf4

D.K Although my queen could potentially be more active in a direct kingside attack, I felt that contesting the dark squares and solidifying control over the f-file justified this move.

14.Qxf4 Rxf4 15.Rfe1 Raf8 16.Rad1 Kg7 17.Rd2

E.P [Yet another critical position of the game. I spent quite some time trying to figure out how to turn my advantage in space into something more material. I wasn't thinking there was a big advantage

but I knew there was some to possibly build upon. I found nothing and kept maneuvering. Yet again the key would be the realization of the hampering role of the unfortunate B 17.Bxc6!? Bxc6 (After 17...bxc6 Black should forget about the crucial breakthrough for a long time, and White gets a chance to gradually increase his advantage by targeting the "a" pawn while improving the N's position) 18.d5 (18.Ng5 Bd7 19.Rxe6 Kh6 20.h4 Bxe6 21.Nxe6 Rxf2 22.Nxf8 Rxf8 is safe for Black, even though a move like 19...Kh6 is easy to miss for those of us who are not computers!) 18...exd5 19.cxd5 Bd7 20.Rc1 Rc8 21.Re7+ Rf7 22.Re3 was exactly what I was looking for. Unfortunately this realization dawned on me not before the game had been over]

17...h6

D.K After both players complete their development, white hopes to make a breakthrough on the queenside or with a d5-push, while black expands on the kingside.

18.Re3

E.P From now on White was wasting time for several moves...

18...g5 19.b3 Nd8 !?(D.K)

D.K Black hopes that he has enough time to contest the white bishop and eventually play Nf7 to support an e5-push, but this move is a bit slow and the knight was well positioned on c6.

20.Ne1 Bc6 21.Bb1?!=(D.K)

E.P [21.Bxc6 Nxc6 22.Nc2 e5 seems completely equal]

D.K Although an attractive move positionally, white misses his chance to maintain an edge and space with d5: [21.d5! Bd7 22.dxe6 Bxe6 23.Nd3 (23.Bxb7 Bxc4 24.Bf3 Bg8 with chances for both sides with the new pawn structure imbalances) 23...R4f6 24.Nb4+=]

21...Re8 22.g3

E.P starting to overpress in a burning but unfounded desire to score a full point. The "f3" square is rapidly turning into a weakness

22...Rf7 23.Rde2 Rfe7 24.Nd3 Kf6 25.Bc2!?(D.K)

E.P [25.Nb4 e5]

D.K [25.f4 g4 lessens black's chances on the kingside, and shifts the battle to the queenside]

25...Nf7!?(D.K)

D.K [25...g4! is best, with the idea of Nf7-Ng5-Nf3/Nh3]

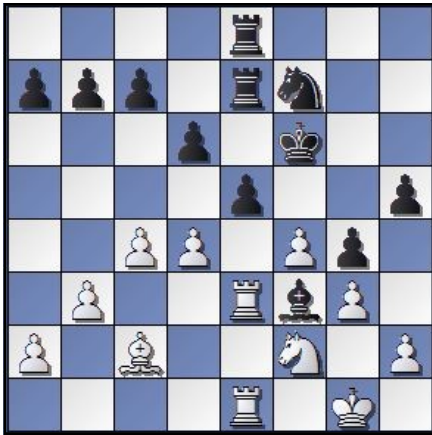
26.f3

E.P everything is ready for ...e5, so I was

trying to make my N more useful on "e4"
26...h5 27.f4? (E.P)

E.P [Already under delusion of the following suicidal exchange sacrifice. An absolute must was 27.Nb4 Bd7 28.Be4 a5 29.Nc2 (29.Nd3? d5 30.Bh7 Rh8 31.cxd5 Rxh7 32.Nc5 Bc8 33.dxe6 Nd6 34.d5 c6 and Black gradually prevails) 29...c6 30.Kf2 and the position remains complex and about equal]

27...g4 28.Nf2 Bf3 29.Re1 e5= (D.K)



30.Rxf3?? (E.P) ! (D.K)

E.P [30.dxe5+ dxe5 31.fxe5+ Nxe5 (31...Rxe5 32.Rxe5 Rxe5 33.Rxe5 Nxe5 (33...Kxe5? 34.Bg6) 34.Ne4+ and White has probably nothing to fear because of Black's vulnerable K-side pawns) 32.Kf1 (32.Nd3? Nxd3 33.Rxe7 Nxe1 34.Rxe8 Nxc2-+) 32...Bc6 33.Nd3 Nf3 (33...Nxd3 34.Rxe7 Nxe1 35.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 36.Kxe1=) 34.Rxe7 Rxe7 35.Rxe7 Kxe7 36.Nf4 Nxe2+ 37.Kf2 Be8 38.Be4 c6 39.Kg1 and White narrowly escapes in all variations]

D.K Although Edward later considered this to be a blunder from mental fatigue, I think it was beautifully timed; Richard was on the verge of losing, I had 4-minutes for the next 10-moves, and the new tactics/ imbalances give white chances for a win!

30...gxf3 31.Ne4+ Kg7 32.f5 Kh6! (E.P)

E.P [After 32...Kh8 33.d5 it's impossible to dislodge the N from "e4", and White has full compensation 33...c6 34.Rd1 etc]

33.d5

E.P [33.Nf6 Rh8 34.d5 e4!? would present Black with a tougher challenge but should still see him winning in the end(34...Ng5 35.h4 Nf7 36.Kf2)]

33...Ng5 34.Kf2 Rf7 35.h4 Nxe4+ 36.Bxe4 Rf8?! (E.P)

E.P [A precursor of a bad mistake. 36...Rg8 37.Kxf3 Rg4 38.Rg1 Kg7 (38...Kh7 39.Ke3 Kg8 40.Bf3 Rgg7 41.Bxh5 Rxf5 42.Be2 and White is very much alive) 39.Ke3 Kf6 40.Bf3; 36...Kg7!

37.Kxf3 Kf6 38.Rg1 Rg8 39.Kf2 Rh7 40.Kf3 Rg4 41.Rg2 Rhg7 and White is running out of moves 42.Bc2 e4+ 43.Bxe4 Ke5 44.Bb1 c6 creating a passed pawn. White's two pawn for the exchange provide some compensation but I doubt it's fully sufficient to survive]

37.Kxf3 Rxf5+? (E.P) !?(D.K)

E.P White's second birthday in this game: now he must survive and can even threaten for more

D.K I was running low on time and evaluated the resulting endgame as =+, but missed the following winning plan that places white in zugzwang: [37...Rg7 38.Rg1 Rfg8 39.Kf2 Rg4 40.Kf3 Rxh4-+]

38.Bxf5 Rxf5+ 39.Ke3 a5

E.P The idea is right, of course, but Black can't stop the K-side counterplay

40.Rc1 b6 41.a3 Rf8 42.b4 axb4 43.axb4

E.P it was vital to provide for the ultimate breakthrough before Black could roll his K over to the centre

43...Rg8

E.P [43...Ra8 would simply grant White with an extra-tempo 44.c5 Ra3+ 45.Ke4 Rxc3 46.Kf5]

44.Ke4! (E.P) !! (D.K)

E.P My best move of the game. I don't even pretend to have calculated all the variations - that task would be up to computer psychiatrists! I went by a simple and crucial principle guiding endgames: pieces' ACTIVITY

D.K A brilliant move intending a white square infiltration with Kf5-Ke6-Kd7 - all other variations lead downhill: [44.Kf3 Rg4 45.b5 Rd4 46.Rc3 Kg6 47.Kg2 Kf5-+; 44.Rg1 Rg4 45.Kd3 b5 46.cxb5 Rxb4 47.Rc1 Rd4+! 48.Ke3 Rxd5 49.Rxc7 Rxb5 50.Rc6 Rd5 51.Ke4 Rd4+ 52.Kf5 Rd3 53.Ke4 Rd1-+]

44...Rxc3 45.Kf5

E.P From now on it's all about computers piling variations on top of each other. Here are some highlights

45...e4 = (D.K)

E.P [45...Rb3 46.Ke6 Rxb4 47.Ke7!! (47.Kd7? b5-+) 47...b5 48.Rf1! Rxc4 49.Rf6+ Kg7 50.Rf7+ Kg6 51.Rf6+ and it's a perpetual!]

D.K After using 20 of my remaining 30 minutes, I decided to play it safe and eliminate a couple pawns in a forced line, yet unknown to the players, most roads lead not to Rome but a draw. [45...Rg4 46.Ke6 Rxh4 47.Kd7 b5 48.cxb5 Rxb4 49.Kxc7 Rxb5 50.Kxd6 e4 51.Re1 Kg5=; 45...Rb3 46.Ke6 (46.b5 Rg3 47.Ke6 Rg7=) 46...Rxb4 47.Ke7! securing the draw

(47.Kd7? b5 48.cxb5 Rxb5 49.Rf1 Rb4 50.Kxc7 Rf4+=) 47...b5 48.Rf1 Rxc4 49.Rf6+ Kg7 50.Rf7+ Kg6 51.Rf6+=]

46.Ke6 e3 47.Kd7 e2?! (D.K)

D.K [47...Rg7+ 48.Kd8 Kg6 49.Re1 Kf5 50.Rxe3 Kg4 51.Re4+ Kf3+= is a better way for black to activate his king]

48.Kxc7 Rc3 49.Re1 Rxc4+ 50.Kxd6 Rxb4

E.P [50...Rxb4? 51.b5 Re4 52.Kc6 h4 53.d6 h3 54.d7 and White wins]

51.Rxe2 Rxh4 52.Ke6= (D.K)

E.P Below is a Silicon Symphony devoted to this particular endgame! [Houdini 1.5a x64: 1) 52.Ke7 Rg4 53.Re6+ Kg5 54.Re5+ Kh4 55.d6 b5 56.Rd5 Rg8 57.d7 Kg4 58.Rd4+ Kf5 59.Rh4 Kg5 60.Rh2 Rh8 61.Rg2+ Kf4 62.Rf2+ Kg4 63.Rf8 Rh7+ 64.Rf7 Rh8 65.Rg7+ Kf5 66.Kd6 h4 67.Rh7 Rxh7 [+]; Houdini 1.5a x64: 2) 52.Ke5 Kg7 53.d6 Kf7 54.Kf5 b5 55.Re7+ Kf8 56.Ke6 Re4+ 57.Kd7 Rd4 58.Rh7 b4 59.Rxh5 b3 60.Rf5+ Kg7 61.Rb5 Rd3 62.Ke7 Re3+ 63.Kd8 Kf6 64.Rb7 Rc3 65.d7 Kf7 66.Rb8 Rg3 67.Rb5 Rc3 [+]; Houdini 1.5a x64: 3) 52.Rd2 Kg6 53.Kd7 Kf7 54.d6 b5 55.Rf2+ Kg6 56.Ke6 Re4+ 57.Kd5 Re3 58.d7 Rd3+ 59.Ke6 Re3+ 60.Kd6 Rd3+ 61.Ke7 Re3+ 62.Kf8 Rd3 63.Ke8 Re3+ 64.Kd8 Rd3 65.Rg2+ Kf6 66.Rh2 b4 67.Rxh5 b3 [+]; Houdini 1.5a x64: 4) 52.Re5 Rg4 53.Ke7 Rg7+ 54.Kf6 Rg6+ 55.Kf7 Rg7+ 56.Ke6 Rg6+ 57.Kd7 b5 58.d6 b4 59.Kc7 Rg7+ 60.Kc6 b3 61.Rb5 Rg3 62.d7 Rc3+ 63.Kb6 Rd3 64.Kc7 Rc3+ 65.Kd6 Rd3+ 66.Ke7 Re3+ 67.Kf7 Rd3 [+]; Houdini 1.5a x64: 5) 52.Re8 b5 53.Rg8 Rh1 54.Kc5 Rd1 55.d6 b4 56.Rg3 Rd2 57.Kc6 h4 58.Re3 Kg5 59.d7 Rc2+ 60.Kd6 Rd2+ 61.Ke6 b3 62.Rxb3 Rxd7 63.Kxd7 Kg4 64.Ke6 h3 65.Rb8 h2 66.Rh8 Kg3 67.Kd6 Kg2 [+]; Houdini 1.5a x64: 6) 52.Re3 Rd4 53.Kc6 h4 54.d6 Kg5 55.d7 Rxd7 56.Kxd7 Kg4 57.Re2 h3 58.Re1 h2 59.Kc6 Kg3 60.Kxb6 Kg4 61.Kc7 Kg3 62.Rb1 Kg4 63.Rf1 Kg3 64.Kd6 Kg4 65.Ke5 Kg3 66.Kd6 Kg4 [+]; Houdini 1.5a x64: 7) 52.Rg2 Rd4 53.Kc6 h4 54.d6 Kh5 55.d7 h3 56.Re2 Kg5 57.Re3 Rxd7 58.Kxd7 Kg4 59.Re1 h2 60.Kc6 Kg3 61.Kxb6 Kg4 62.Kc7 Kg3 63.Rb1 Kg4 64.Rf1 Kg3 65.Kd6 Kg4 66.Ke5 Kg3 67.Kd6 Kg4 [+]]

D.K [white needs his king to help push the d-pawn forward instead of maintaining opposition against black's king 52.Ke7! Kg5 53.Re5+ (53.Rd2 Re4+ 54.Kd8 h4 55.d6 h3 56.d7+- Ra4=) 53...Kf4 only now 54.Ke6!+-]

utterly wild position ensues where plans like h4-Rh3-Re3+ followed by g3 and Bg2 may be regarded as a commonplace!]

7.Bg5

[7.g3 Bc7 8.d6 Ba5 9.Bg2 switching to one of the above variations is another option]

7...Re8

[A more flexible move. 7...Bc7 8.d6 Ba5 9.e3 Qb6 seems to favour Black, in comparison with the previous line, since now the "g" pawn is protected by the K but 10.Qc2 Qxd6 11.Bc4 provides White with a plenty of compensation for the pawn as Black's development leaves much to be desired] **8.e3 h6** [Black's 7th move would indeed be more flexible if it were followed by 8...Bf8 Black abandons his initial plan of landing the B on "c7" but at this cost he prevents the "d" pawn from becoming a wedge as an immediate 9.d6 loses a pawn after 9...Re6. 10.Bf4 -Nh5. To be precise, White might be tempted to sacrifice this pawn as he obtains some lasting compensation for it - yet most high-rated players prefer to slow down the game and return to the "classical" Benoni after, say, 9.Bd3 d6 10.0-0 a6 11.a4 Nbd7 etc]

9.Bh4 Bc7

Now the same B manoeuvre would lead to a less classical position as Black's previous move weakened an important "g6" square considerably - yet it was a better choice.

10.d6 Ba5 11.Bc4 g5



[White 11th move is as strong as it is obvious. Now the familiar counterplay 11...Qb6 12.Bxf6 Qxb2 is impossible because 13.0-0 gxf6 (13...Bxc3 14.Rb1 Qa3 15.Rb3+-) 14.Nd5 Bd8 15.Qd3 would relieve Black of his misery in no time 15...f5 16.Nd4! cxd4 17.Rab1 and the Q is gone while the remaining pieces are strung along the 8th rank and seem to be ready for the nextgame; 11...b5 12.Bd5 Nc6 13.0

-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bb7 15.Qd3 or; 11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Nc6 13.0-0 b6 14.Qd3 are less immediate and more competitive but as long as White retains the d-wedge, his advantage is in no doubt: e4-e5 is a mighty threat hardly to deal with]

12.Bxg5!

[I was less than thrilled by 12.Nxg5 hxg5 13.Bxg5 Nc6 14.Qf3 Ne5 15.Qf4 (15.Qg3 Ne4!) 15...Kg7 16.0-0 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Ng6 (or even 17...Nxc4)]

12...hxg5 13.Nxg5

...so I preferred to occupy the "g5" square with the N able to produce more immediate threats.

13...Re6

[Obviously, computers are not familiar with a concept of resigning - so they keep fighting and producing variations until checkmated or...unplugged - yet if the following variation is the best a chess engine can come up with (and that is indeed the case) it becomes obvious that for a human player curtains are close by 13...Nc6 14.Nxf7 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Qa5 16.0-0 b5 17.Qf3 bxc4 18.Qxf6 Re6 19.Qf5 Qxc3 20.Ng5 Qf6 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Qh5 Kg7 23.Nxe6+ Qxe6 24.Qxc5 Ba6 25.f4 Kf7 26.Rf3 Rg8 27.Rc1 Kf6 28.Kh1 Qf5 29.Qa3 [+]]

14.Qf3

Much stronger than taking material as fulfilled threats are less dangerous than looming ones

14...Nc6 15.Qg3 Kf8 16.0-0! The N on "f6" is the only obstacle preventing White to mate in two - so it's time to kindly evict the defender by e4-e5. And that requires a one-move preparation allowing the white monarch to enjoy himself in a cosy nook

16...Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qa5 18.e4 Ke8

[18...b5 19.Bd5 Bb7 20.e5]

19.Rad1

An apotheosis of paralysis! White quietly prepares f4 to support e4-e5 - or alternately...

19...b5 20.Qh4

The exchange has never been taken, and Black can even go two pieces up - but only to get checkmated along the hopelessly weak 8th rank **1-0**

Round 3:

NM Richard Wang launched an unstoppable attack to quickly take out NM Jeff Reeve. An important event that occurred after this win was the fact that Richard substituted the title of a National Master for a more prestigious FIDE Master title as his FIDE rating surpassed

the 2300 mark.

IM Edward Porper seemed to be on the ropes against FM Vladimir Pechenkin in the Edmonton Championship final rematch. Edward did manage to hang on for a draw. There was plenty of bloodshed in the all Calgarian match between NM Alex Yam and NM Daniel Kazmaier but Alex's king onslaught succeeded as Daniel was yet to get on the scoreboard.

Round 4:

FM Elect, Richard Wang continued to take apart his opposition. This time the victim was NM Alex Yam. IM Edward Porper was not able to break through NM Jeff Reeve's defenses. NM Daniel Kazmaier was able to score his first win at the expense of FM Vladimir Pechenkin. Out of the opening it looked like Vladimir was simply up a pawn, but he decided to sacrifice a piece for several more pawns. The sacrifice was probably not completely sound and Daniel managed to take over the game.

Round 5:

Going into round 5, FM elect, Richard Wang had 3.5/4 and he was a full point ahead of IM Edward Porper. It wasn't over though, as in case of a tie between the two, Edward's tie break was better as he drew with black in the direct encounter between the two. With a draw guaranteeing him the title everyone expected Richard to take it slow in his last round game against FM Vladimir Pechenkin. Apparently, Richard didn't have the same idea as he went all out sacrificing two pawns in the opening. Vladimir consolidated and won fairly easily. This meant that had IM Edward Porper defeated NM Daniel Kazmaier he would become the new Alberta Champion. The game proceeded slowly and it seemed that breakthroughs were going to be hard to come by for either player. Mutual inaccuracies lead to both players having winning chances at one time or another, but in the end an interesting endgame ended in a draw. After the game it was chosen as the tournament's best game co-winner. The draw lead to FM elect, Richard Wang winning the Alberta Closed all by himself.

Below are the annotations of the game. Both players annotated it, with IM Porper's comments marked as E.P and Daniel's as D.K. It is quite interesting to see some of the disagreements between the

52...Rd4=(D.K) 53.d6 Kg5? (D.K)

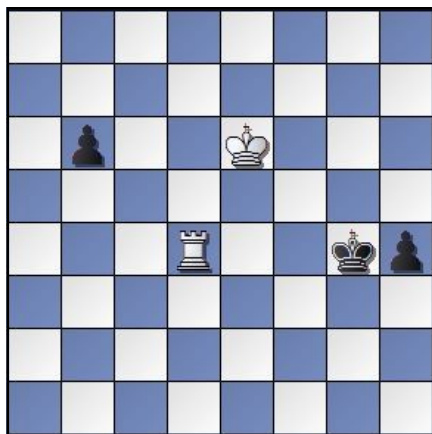
D.K black throws away the draw! instead of playing the desirable king activation, the h pawn also needed to move forward: [53...h4 54.Ke7 Kg5 55.d7 Rxd7+ 56.Kxd7 h3=]

54.Re5+ !(D.K) Kg4 55.Rd5 Ra4? (D.)

D.K another missed draw - black needed to misplace white's king in the following variation: [55...Re4+ 56.Kf6 Rf4+ 57.Ke7 Re4+ 58.Kf7 Rf4+ 59.Kg7 Ra4=]

56.d7 Ra8 57.d8Q?(D.K)

D.K White returns the favour in overlooking the intermezzo Rd4+!, which enables the white king to later have favourable opposition against the black king as the h-pawn advances [57.Rd4+! Kg3 58.d8Q Rxd8 59.Rxd8 h4 60.Kf5 h3 61.Rd3+ Kg2 62.Kg4+- h2 63.Rd2+ Kg1 64.Kg3 h1N+ 65.Kf3 and black will lose in eventually giving up the knight]

Rxd8 58.Rxd8 h4 59.Rd4+**Kg5! (E.P) !(D.K)**

E.P Just when I thought I was winning...

D.K black seizes his last opportunity to secure the draw by playing this counter-intuitive move, shielding the f-file from white's king [59...Kg3? 60.Kf5 h3+- and we reach the losing endgame above]

60.Rd5+ [60.Ke5 h3=]**60.Rd5+**

D.K[60.Ke5 h3=]

Kg4 61.Rd4+ Kg5 62.Rd5+ ½-½

D.K An exciting endgame where the result was never certain. Congrats to Richard Wang for a well played AB Championship! ½-½

NM Alex Yam quickly won against NM Jeff Reeve to tie for second.

The tournament was directed by Brad Willis in a comfortable and conflict free fashion. Brad was assisted by Nancy Van Kemp who took the time to enter the

games from both the Alberta Closed and the adjacent Alberta Reserves events. Along with directing the tournament, Brad also contributed to the prize fund by providing \$150 for the best game prize. Great job by both Brad and Nancy!



Tournament Directors Brad Willis and Nancy Van Kemp

I would also like to extend a special thanks to the players who played some great fighting chess. As Brad Willis put it, they made us all exhausted just watching them! Tournament games can be found at:

<http://albertachess.org/Games.html>

You can also view more pictures from the tournament at:

<http://tinyurl.com/6v7v14m>

Gardner, Daniluk win the 2012 Alberta Reserves

By: Vlad Rekhson



The Alberta Reserves runs alongside the Closed Championship. It is run in a regular Swiss format of 5 rounds. This year's event was held on Saturday and Sunday, April 7-8. A total of 20 participants took part, with National Master Rob "The Rocket" Gardner being the pre-tournament favourite. Roy Yearwood was supposed to be his main rival; however, Roy is a very unpredictable player and this time he did

not perform up to his usual standard. In fact, in the first round he was a victim of the ever dangerous veteran-George Sponga. Jim Daniluk is another unpredictable Calgarian and this time around his unpredictability lead to success as he finished tied for first after defeating his usual nemesis-Aaron Sequillion and Roy Yearwood. It looked like Jim was going to take down Rob Gardner as well, but he only managed to draw. In the end, even though NM Gardner had a mediocre event by his standards, it was good enough to tie for first with Jim, with a score of 4/5. Third place went to Ali Razzaq who scored 3.5/5. Best under 2000 prize was shared by: Tim Pradzynski and Rick Pedersen with 3/5 each. Best under 1700 went to George ("The Giant Killer") Sponga and the surprise of the tournament-Kaixin Wang, rated only 1110 before the tournament. They scored 2.5/5 each. Full standings can be viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/dxmh46s>

ACA Instructors

Visit the ACA Instructors directory to find out full details on instructors listed below.

<http://albertachess.org/Instruction.html>

IM Edward Porper-Edmonton
 NM Robert Gardner-Edmonton,
 Aaron Sequillion-Edmonton
 Calgary Junior Chess Club
 NM Roy Yearwood-Calgary
 Frank Kluytmans-Calgary
 Lethbridge Junior Chess

49th Canadian Open



Location: Victoria, BC
 Grand Pacific Hotel

Dates: July 8-13, 2012

\$15,000 in prizes guaranteed

Sections: Premier (FIDE and CFC rated), U2000 (CFC rated), and U1600 (CFC rated)

<http://monroi.com/2012-cocc-home.html>

CYCC 2012

July 3-6, 2012 Surrey, BC
 6 sections from u-8 to u-18.

www.bcjuniorchess.com/cycc-2012/



IMs Hansen/Porper at Olympiad

By: Vlad Rekhson

Unless I am mistaken, and none of the CFC historians corrected me; the last time that an Albertan was selected to represent Canada at the prestigious chess Olympiad was back in the far away 1939. Back then, the remarkable Walter Hollowach represented our nation in Buenos-Aires, Argentina.

It is remarkable that after such a long hiatus, we will get not one but two representatives. IMs Eric Hansen and Edward Porper will be among the five player squad representing Canada in Turkey this August-September. Sending the team does not come without expense and the Canadian Chess Federation is looking for sponsors in order to get to the required \$20,000. If you would like to help fund the team, please visit:

http://chess.ca/2012_Chess_Olympiad

The 2012 Canadian team will consist of:
 GM Bator Sambuev (2536)
 IM Leonid Gerzhoy (2489)
 IM Nikolay Noritsyn (2475)
 IM Eric Hansen (2454)
 IM Edward Porper (2438)

A five player women's team will be sent as well.

On behalf of the ACA I wish all the best to team Canada!



Picture courtesy: Mark S. Dutton

Albertans Face Nakamura

By: Vlad Rekhson

Over the past Easter weekend, several Albertans went to Victoria to partake in the Grand Pacific Open tournament. To the surprise of many, super Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura played in this event. Hikaru is rated 2771 which makes him the sixth highest rated player in the world. Typically, for a player of this level to be invited to a tournament, very high appearance fees are required, but Hikaru is an exception as he often likes to play in events where good socialization takes place. An example of that, was Hikaru's participation in Lloydminster, AB in 2010. The tournament was very weak by GM Nakamura's normal standards as the second highest rated participant was rated 2393. Not surprisingly, Hikaru took first place with a perfect 6/6. On his way he faced a couple of Albertans who despite losing had the opportunity of a lifetime to face a GM of this caliber.

Haynes, Nicolas (2192) - GM Nakamura, Hikaru (2771) [D02]
 6th Grand Pacific Open 2012 Victoria BC

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.dxc5 Nc6 4.c4 e6 5.e3 Bxc5 6.Be2 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.a3 a5 9.b3 Qe7 10.Nc3 Rd8 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nb5 Bg4 13.Bb2 Rac8 14.Nfd4 Bd7 15.Bf3 Ne5 16.Nc3 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Qe5 18.Qg3 Qh5 19.Nde2 Qh6 20.h4 Bg4 21.Nf4 d4 22.Ncd5 Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Be6 24.Nf4 dxe3 25.fxe3 Bxb3 26.Bd4 Rxd4 27.exd4 Bxd4+ 28.Kh2 Bxa1 29.Rxa1 a4 30.Re1 Qd6 31.Qg4 Be6 32.Rd1 Bxg4 33.Rxd6 b5 34.Nd5 Kf8 35.Rb6 Bd7 36.Kg3 f6 37.Kf4 Rc4+ 38.Ke3 Rxh4 39.Rb8+ Kf7 40.Rb7 Ke6 41.Nc7+ Kd6 0-1

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As Of April 19, 2012

1	Hansen, Eric	2594
2	Porper, Edward	2464
3	Wang, Richard	2436
4	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2407
5	Yam, Alex	2380
6	Gicev, Blagoj	2370
7	Haynes, Nicolas	2336
8	Kazmaier, Daniel	2327
9	Reeve, Jeff	2326
10	Haessel, Dale	2308
11	Valencia, Belsar	2304
12	Gardner, Robert J.	2299
13	Zhang, David	2285
14	Neven, Knut	2231
15	Grumic, Sasa	2227
16	Nguyen, Kim	2218
17	Robichaud, Martin	2201
18	Hughey, Micah	2200
19	Gluckie, Jamin	2190
20	Kaminski, Thomas	2182
21	Miller, David	2171
22	Tam, Erik	2158
23	Booker, Brad	2147
24	Kostadinov, Georgi	2121
25	Rekhson, Vladislav	2104
26	Yearwood, Roy	2103
27	Wen, Jean-Francois	2099
28	Ottosen, David	2096
29	Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz	2086
30	Tot, Nandor	2084
31	Gold, Itohan	2083
32	Perron, Sean	2079
33	Willis, Bradley J.	2048
34	Beaudry, Lukas	2047
35	Kalisvaart, Peter	2029
36	Sequillion, Aaron	2017
37	Kalaydina, Regina-Veronica	2013
38	Pua, Richard	2012
39	Daniluk, Jim	2008
40	Karmali, Hafiz	1986

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

AS OF March 1, 2012

1	Hansen, Eric	2454
2	Porper, Edward	2438
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2309
4	Gicev, Blagoj	2305
5	Wang, Richard	2258
6	Yam, Alex	2246
7	Reeve, Jeff	2244
8	Valencia, Belsar	2218
9	Kazmaier, Daniel	2204
10	Gardner, Robert J.	2196



7th Edmonton International Chess Festival



Edmonton Chess Club
 Main event : Ten player RR ,
 June 27-July 2.

Participants: GM Victor Mikhalevski, IM Edward Porper, FM Richard Wang...

7th Edmonton International Reserves

Open To all Swiss Event.
 June 30-July 2nd.

More information will be available soon at:
www.albertachess.org



The Edmonton Chess Club



Chess Player Profile: Nicka Kalaydina
By: Vlad Rekhson

Regina-veronica Kalaydina, or Nicka as she is often called, is a remarkable player residing in Calgary. She is a three time Canadian Champion in her age groups and in January of this year she became the Canadian Junior (u-20) girls champion. More recently her rating surpassed the 2000 mark for the first time. Nicka is multi-talented and it was a real pleasure to talk to her.

V.R. Nicka, you have done a couple of excellent interviews recently with Nikolay Noritsyn and David Zhang, both of which were featured in Canada Chess Newsletter, so I would like to thank you for showing that you are willing to be on the receiving end of questions as well.

N.K. No problem, thanks for offering to interview me.

V.R. So let's start from the beginning, how did you get into chess?

N.K. Well, first of all, I grew up in the city of Lviv, Ukraine, where chess was always a dominant part of Ukrainian culture. Not to mention that my whole family had been playing chess for most of their lives. So, I guess I was always expected to start playing at a very young age. My brother started teaching me when I was 6, then my

dad took over and I've been playing ever since.

V.R. Since you are still a fairly active player, I think that it safe to say that you like the game. What is it about it that still attracts you?

N.K. Of course, I don't just like the game - I love it! What I love most is that there's a very philosophical and psychological approach to chess. It's not all about the right move or the right tactic: the outcome of the game may very well depend on other (mental factors) too.

V.R. Now what do you mean by mental factors?

N.K. For example, your confidence, your self esteem or even the surrounding environment.

V.R. One of the mental factors that affect some guys is that they feel a little bit intimidated or at least uncomfortable when playing girls. Do you feel different when playing against guys vs. girls?

N.K. Personally, gender doesn't play a role in my feelings towards an opponent. I certainly feel more comfortable when playing guys, because I've done so for most of my life, but I try to keep my emotions at bay during the chess game.

V.R. Unfortunately, women's chess is not too popular in Alberta and it seems that often when you play in adult, open tournaments you happen to be the only female participant. What do you think can be done to further promote chess among women?

N.K. Encouragement is the first step to promoting chess amongst women. It can range from discounted tournament fees to "top girl" medals and trophies, or better yet, cash prizes at tournaments! However, I applaud Paul Gagne who has done an outstanding job of gathering girls to play in regular tournaments in Calgary.

V.R. Some people feel that "women's chess" is somehow different than "men's chess." I am personally, not sure what that means, but do you think that there is a difference?

N.K. There is a certain juxtaposition between men and women when it comes to chess. For starters, women are much more softer on a psychological level compared

to men, which accounts for their "playing it on the safe side" mindset. But there are always exceptions, such as the Polgar sisters, who are both keen in defence and daring in attacks.

V.R. Obviously, you are very busy in school right now and I am sure that other things occupy your time as well. How much time do you normally dedicate to chess in a typical week?

N.K. It varies day by day, but I try to dedicate at least an hour on weekdays and two-three on weekends.

V.R. That is actually quite encouraging. What often happens to junior players is that they quit after either entering high school or after graduating. I am glad that you have successfully stepped over the first hurdle as you continue to play while in high school, but do you think that you will continue with chess after graduating?

N.K. University is very demanding, so I'm not sure if I'll have time for chess. But I would love to play on intercollegiate chess tournaments and represent my University.

V.R. What are some of your chess goals?

N.K. Well, I have a few: I want to become a Master and play at the Olympiad I also want to start a Women's Chess League in Alberta

V.R. women's league? Tell me, what do you have in mind

N.K. Like the CJCC and CCC, I want to gather a group of dedicated female chess players and run monthly tournaments with cash prizes. Another one of my ideas is to run a column specifically intended to talk about the Women's Chess Scene in Alberta.

V.R. This sounds great, so we will be talking quite a bit in the near future!

You are currently conducting interviews for the Canada Chess Newsletter and I know that you also write for other publications. Is writing something that you want to be doing when you finish school, or is it more of a hobby for you?

N.K. Writing is simply a way to express myself. I am also very interested in

Classical Literature as well as Poetry, but I feel as though I need to keep discovering myself in order to fully plan my career path.

V.R. You certainly still have time to do that.

N.K. From one perspective, yes, I have loads of time until I reach University. But I feel like the courses I pick in high school have a radical effect on my future.

V.R. You are certainly very mature for your age so I am sure that you will make the right decisions for you

I am sure that over the years you have played many great games, but most players have their "Mona Lisa," meaning the best game that they have ever played or a game that was really special to them. If you have one, which one would that be?

N.K. My "Mona Lisa" was actually a game I played against the top rated player in a tournament for tier four (chetvortii razrad) back when I was six years old, in Lviv. I was completely lost until I used the oldest trick in the book: threaten to mate and look away. And it worked, landing me 2nd place in the city.

V.R. that was a surprising response! Perhaps you can show a more recent game of yours.

N.K. It would be my pleasure.

V.R. Once again, I would like to thank you for taking your time to answer my questions and I would like to wish you all the best in all of your endeavors.

N.K. Thank you! I enjoyed the interview very much! It sparked some great memories.

Kalaydina,Nicka (1916) - Pivovarov,Juraj (2017)
2010 Alberta Open, Edmonton 10.10.2010

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 e6 4.Nbd2 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.c3 Bb7 8.Qc2 d5 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.h3 c5 11.g4 c4 12.Be2 Qd6 13.g5 Be7 14.Ne5 Bxg5 15.h4 Bf6 16.f4 Bxe5 17.fxe5 Qe7 18.Nf3 Nc6 19.Kd2 b5 20.Ng5 h6 21.Nh3 Nxe5 22.Nf4 Qf7 23.dxe5 d4 24.exd4 Bxh1 25.Rxh1 Qb7 26.Rg1 Rfe8 27.Ke3 Rad8 28.Bf3 Qb6 29.Qg2 Re7 30.Nh5 Kh8 31.Qg6 Qc7 32.Nf6 gxf6 33.Qxh6+ Rh7 34.Qxf6+ Rg7 35.Rxg7 Qxg7 36.Qxd8+ Kh7 37.Qg5 1-0

2012 Calgary Championship

By: Vlad Rekhson



The annual championship of the cowtown took place over seven weeks between February 21-April 3.

The event is always held in a Round-Robin format, whereby the top 8 players to register play for cash prizes, title of city champion and an award of \$400 towards a top level event of the winner's choice.

This year the tournament was weaker than normal, which allowed some of the players who normally wouldn't be able to make it in, an opportunity to prove themselves. Kim Nguyen was the pre-tournament favourite at 2198. His event wasn't perfect, as he was in trouble in several games, but in the end he convincingly won the event with 6/7 and became the 2012 city champion!

Second went to Vlad Rekhson, who scored 4.5/7. Third was shared among: Regina-veronicka Kalaydina, Hafiz Karmali and Krishneel Singh who scored 4/7 each.

#	Player	Rtg	Results	Tot.
1	Nguyen, Kim	2198	x = 1 1 1 1 = 1	6.0
2	Rekhson, Vladislav	1990	= x 1 = 0 1 1 =	4.5
3	Singh, Krishneel	1846	0 0 x 0 1 1 1 1	4.0
4	Karmali, Hafiz	1959	0 = 1 x 0 = 1 1	4.0
5	Kalaydina, Regina-Veronicka	2000	0 1 0 1 x 0 1 1	4.0
6	Gold, Itohan	2170	0 0 0 = 1 x 1 0	2.5
7	Miller, Brian	1753	= 0 0 0 0 0 x 1	1.5
8	Daniluk, Jim	2006	0 = 0 0 0 1 0 x	1.5

2012 Calgary Reserves

By: Vlad Rekhson

The players who didn't make it to the top 8 still had an opportunity to test their skills at the 2012 Calgary Reserves.

A total of 9 players played in this event with newcomer Anar Azer and veteran Chris Kuczaj sharing the glory of first place with 5.5/7. Anar proved to be quite a gentleman and decided to donate his \$130 first place prize back to the Calgary Chess Club. Third place was won by: Ted Borowski who scored 4.5/7.

2012 Alberta Active Championship

June 10, 2012

Calgary Chess Club
274-3359 27 St NE Calgary, AB T1Y 5E4

Phone: (403) 264-9498

Tournament Director: Frank Kluytmans
fekluytmans@gmail.com

CFC Active rated

CFC membership is required, can be purchased at site. Your CFC membership must be paid prior to round 1.

Format: 5 round swiss.

Time Control: Game 25+10 seconds increment.

Round Times: 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm. 5:00 pm or ASAP.

Byes: A maximum of 2 half point byes available in the first 4 rounds. All byes must be registered before the start of round 1.

Entry Fee: Adults: \$20 (Add \$20 if non CFC member). \$15 for juniors 20 and under. Add \$10 if not CFC member). Free entry to GMs & IMs.

Pre-registration: Can be made via email to the TD
fekluytmans@gmail.com

Onsite registration: 10:00 am-10:45 am, June 10, 2012.

Prize Fund: Sum of entry fees minus \$3 ACA dues per player. Class prizes will be available.

This is a *Road Warrior* event

Sponsored by Alberta Chess Association



2012 GP Trumpeter Classic

\$700 Prize Fund plus some awesome door prizes!

(Prize Fund Based on 20 Adult Entries,

\$5 of each entry goes back to the Alberta Chess Association)

Special Pairing Rule Will Be In Effect (from the CFC Handbook):

VARIATION 619.1: *If specifically requested by the players involved, minor transpositions may be made in the first two rounds of a tournament at the director's discretion in order to avoid pairing players from the same region, city, team, family, etc. but only to the extent that the results of the tournament as a whole are not substantially affected by this procedure.*

When: June 2 - 3, 2012

Where: Sandman Hotel in Grande Prairie (next to Earl's)

Tournament Format: 5 Rounds Swiss

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

Register: 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Saturday Morning (On Site)

Round Times:

Saturday 10 AM, 2:30 PM, 7 PM

Sunday 9 AM, 1:30 PM

Web: <http://www.gpchessclub.com/trumpeterclassic>

Entry Fee: \$40 Adults, \$30 for Juniors (18 and Under)
CFC Membership Required (Can Be Purchased On Site)

FREE Entry to GM's, IM's and the 2011 Trumpeter Classic champion, Roy Yearwood

This is a *Road Warrior* event!

Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association



2012 Edmonton International Qualifier/Fundraiser

April 28-29

Edmonton Chess Club, 10840 124 st, NW T6R-3A2
Phone: 780-424-0283

This annual event is used as a fund-raiser for the prestigious 7th annual Edmonton International event which will take place; June 27-July 2nd, 2012. This year's Edmonton International will be a 10 player Round-Robin. The qualifier tournament winner will be eligible for a spot at the 7th Edmonton International.

Your participation will help the main event as 50% of entries will go towards the organization of the 7th Edmonton International.

Tournament Director: FA Ali Razzaq;
ali_alnajmi@hotmail.com>;

Format: 5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE rated

CFC membership is required and available at the door for \$43 adults, \$28 juniors

Entry fee: \$30 until Thursday, April 19th. \$35 afterwards. \$5 discount for juniors 18 and under. Pre-registration is non-refundable after April 19th.

On-Site Registration:

9:00-9:45 AM Saturday, June 5

Round times: Saturday, 10 am, ~2:30 pm, ~7 pm. Sunday, 10 am, ~2 pm

Time control: G/90 + 30 seconds

Byes: Up to two half point byes are available for rounds 1-4 if announced before the start.

Prize fund: 50% of entries. Some class prizes are expected.

Tie-Break: The cash prizes will be split. The qualifying spot will be determined by normal ACA tie-breaking system which is available at: http://www.albertachess.org/Alberta_Championship.html

Default late time is 60 minutes.

This is a *Road Warrior* event



2012 ACA Tournament Schedule

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

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



Date	Event	Organizer	Location
April 28-30	Edmonton International Qualifier*	FA Ali Razzaq	Edmonton
May 15-21	Calgary International Chess Classic*	Tony Ficzere	Calgary
May 19-21	Calgary International Reserves*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
June 2-3	Trumpeter Classic*	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie
June 10	Alberta Active*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
June 27-Jul 2	7th Edmonton International*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
June 30-Jul 2	Edmonton International Reserves*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
August	Battle of AB	Hughey/Daniluk	Red Deer
Sep 1-2	Over/Under 1800*	FA Ali Razzaq	Edmonton
Sep 15-16	Medicine Hat Open*	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 6-8	Alberta Open*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Oct 26-28	Edmonton Fall Sectional*	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton
Nov 3-4	Alberta Junior Championship	Richard Pua	Edmonton
Nov 17-18	Southern Alberta Open*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Dec 2	Christmas Youth Open	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Dec 15-16	WBX Team Tournament*	FA Ali Razzaq	Edmonton

Road Warrior Update



The 2012 competition will see several changes. From previous year's.

The prizes will be as follows:

- 1st: \$200
- 2nd: \$100
- 3rd: \$50
- Special prize: \$150

The special prize will be drawn randomly and it will go to one player who will travel to at least two ACA Road Warrior tournaments outside of their region (minimum one hour drive) in 2012.

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

2012 Standings

After the Lethbridge Open

#	Road Warrior	Location	Pts
1	Chris White	La Crete	20.0
2	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	16.0
3	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie	15.0
4	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	14.0
5	Alex Yam	Calgary	10.0
6	Jim Daniluk	Calgary	9.0
7	David Miller	Grande Prairie	9.0
8	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	8.0
9	Phil Holmstrom	Edmonton	8.0
10	Andrew Wallbank	Redcliff	7.0

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University of Lethbridge Chess Club

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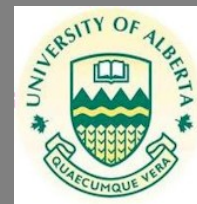
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Calgary Chess Club News



Fort McMurray Club News



2012 Calgary Quad

January 10-24

The four player sectional was won by the always unpredictable Art Milne with a perfect score. Ali Abdelmanan, Brady Jahraus and Brian Miller scored one point each.

Calgary Youth Chess Championship

January 28-29

This tournament is a warm-up before the Provincial Youth event. It was played in 3 sections and attracted a total of 22 participants. The u-10 section winner was Patrick Angelo Tolentino with 4.5/5. U-12 section saw a share of first between John Vaganov and Raphael Libre with 3.5/5 each. The u-14 section was won by: Yuekai Wang with a perfect 5/5.

2nd Calgary Grand-Prix

February 18

The second installment of the Calgary Junior Grand-Prix series attracted a total of 8 participants and was won by: Chenxi Zhao with a perfect 5/5. Second went to: Ian Zhao who scored 4/5. Third was taken by John Vaganov with 3/5.

3rd Calgary Grand-Prix

March 3

The third installment of the Calgary Junior Grand-Prix attracted 11 participants. Raphael Libre took first with 4/5. Second went to Xuyan Zhang with 3.5/5. Third was shared by: John Vaganov and Chenxi Zhao with 3/5 each.

Calgary Junior Knockout

April 7

The Calgary Junior Grand-Prix was won by: Diwen Shi who scored 4.5/6. Second went to Li Zeling who scored 3/6.

*All Calgary events were directed by:
Frank Kluytmans*

By: Jina Burn

The First *April Fool's Day* Tournament organized by Fort McMurray Chess Club and sponsored by NEXEN Inc was a big success.

8 youth and 6 adults competed for the fun prizes.

The absolute winner in Adults section was Marc Sicotte winning 100% of the games followed by Joseph Mugodo with 4/5 and Mark Hearn with 3/5.

The youths were split in 2 Sections. Robert Gibson broke the tradition and lead Section A followed by Johnny Burn sharing the same score of 2/3.

In Section B the absolute leader was David Thunaes with 3/3 with one point ahead of Ali Muhammed and two points ahead of Yang Ke.



Photos: Jina Burn

Youth A Results

No	Name	Gr.	Rounds			Total
1	Robert Gibson	6	-4	+1	+3	2.0 / 3
2	Johnny Burn	6	+3	+1	+4	2.0 / 3
3	Mary Joseph	9	-2	-3	-1	1.0 / 3
4	Harsh Bhatt	8	+1	+4	-2	1.0 / 3

Youth B Results

No	Name	Gr.	Rounds			Total
1	David Thunaes	4	+4	+3	+2	3.0 / 3
2	Ali Muhammed	6	+3	+4	-1	2.0 / 3
3	Yang Ke	6	-2	-1	+4	1.0 / 3
4	Michael Jenkins Grunsky	7	-1	-2	-3	0.0 / 3

Adults Results

No	Name	Rounds					Total
1	Marc Sicotte	+3	+4	+5	+2	+6	5.0 / 5
2	Joseph Mugodo	+6	+3	+4	-1	+5	4.0 / 5
3	Mark Hearn	-1	-2	+6	+5	+4	3.0 / 5
4	Alexei Tarasenco	+5	-1	-2	+6	-3	2.0 / 5
5	Ancy Chacko	-4	+6	-1	-3	-2	1.0 / 5
6	Raj Bhatt	-2	-5	-3	-4	-1	0.0 / 5



The Edmonton Chess Club

Edmonton March Sectional

March 10-11

This was the first tournament directing stint of the junior-Harris Wang. A total of 6 participants played in this Round-Robin. First was taken by NM Richard Wang with a perfect 5/5. Second went to Aaron Sequillion who scored 4/5. Mike Zeggelaar took third place with 3/5.

ECC Capablanca Classic

March 1-29

A total of 34 players took part in the Edmonton March Thursday nights event. NM Richard Wang took the first place with a score of 4.5/5. Second was shared by: FM Vladimir Pechenkin, NM Micah Hughey, Joskin Cleto, Damon Macleod, Louise Samer and Robert Brazeau with 3.5/5 each. Micah Hughey directed this event.



2012 Calgary Regional

By Frank Kluytmans

2012 Calgary Regional Chess Challenge took place on Saturday Mar 17, 2012 at the Calgary Chess Club.

Winners of each grade qualified for the Alberta Regional Chess Challenge to be held in Red Deer on April 21, 2012.

Grades 1 and 2 were combined into one section and played a round robin. The winner of Grade 1 was Celilia Bulbrook, a 1st time tournament participant. The Grade winner going undefeated with 5.0 points was Ian Zhao.

The winner of Grade 3 was Wayne Babiuk with an undefeated score of 5.0 points.

Grades 4-6 were combined into a 5 round Swiss. The winner of Grade 4 was Patrick Tolentino with 4.5 points. 1st in Grade 5 was Andre Tolentino also with 4.5 points.

The winner of Grade 6 was Raphael Libre after a playoff with Johnny Chen.

Grades 7-10 were also combined into a 5 round Swiss. The winner of Grade 7 was Nicholas Lee with 3.0 points.

Grade 8 winner was Chenxi Zhao with 3.0. Grade 9 champion was Yuekai Wang with 3.5 points.

And the Grade 10 winner was Krishneel Singh with 4.5 points.

The Grade winners and qualifiers to the Alberta Regional Chess Challenge are:

Grade	Winner
1	Celilia Bulbrook
2	Ian Zhao
3	Wayne Babiuk
4	Patrick Tolentino
5	Andre Tolentino
6	Raphael Libre
7	Nicholas Lee
8	Chenxi Zhao
9	Yuekai Wang
10	Krishneel Singh

2012 AYCC

By: Frank Kluytmans

This year it was hosted at the Calgary Chess Club. We had a total of 29 entries, 12 of whom had free entry from the 2012 Calgary YCC tournament held earlier this year.

The U8 section had 4 participants, I made this section a double round robin, which required 6 rounds in total. At the end Ian Zhao won all 5 of his games, took the Open Trophy, \$40 in cash, and won ACA support for playing in the 2012 Canadian Youth event in Surrey, BC. Chantel Bustos was the lone girl participant, so she automatically won the girl's trophy.

The U10 section had 6 players, turning it into an automatic 5 round Swiss. We had to have a 25 min play-off as 3 players were all tied with 4.0 points. After the 3-game playoff, Patrick Tolentino won and took the Open trophy, the same \$40 cash and ACA sponsorship to the 2012 Canadian



Youth.

Jane Wang was the only girl and won the corresponding trophy.

The U12 section had the largest number of players, 8 boys and 1 girl. This section also required a playoff between Edmonton's Jamil F Kassam and Calgary's own Nicholas Lee. Nicholas took the honour and won the standard trophy, split the 1st-2nd prize division of \$32 and also was awarded support to the 2012 Canadian Youth by the ACA. Hope Gagne won the girl's trophy.

The U14 section had 7 entries, Richard Wang from Edmonton won all 5 of his games. He also won the trophy, cash and ACA support to the 2012 Canadian youth. Rachel Gagne took the girl's trophy.

The U16 had 3 people and was won by Nicka Kalaydina, who took the Open Trophy and the usual cash plus ACA sponsorship. Since Nicka won the Open Trophy, her girl's trophy had to be returned to the organizers.

Finally the U18 section only had 2 participants who played a 2-game match. David Zhang (our 2012 Canadian Junior champ) won this section with the usual trophy, cash and ACA support.

Level	Winner
U-8	Ian Zhao
U-10	Patrick Tolentino
U-12	Nicholas Lee
U-14	Richard Wang
U-16	Nicka Kalaydina
U-18	David Zhang

Sixth Annual Lethbridge - Medicine Hat "Team" Chess Challenge -- March 17, 2012 (Saturday)

Last year, on March 19th, 6 members of the Medicine Hat Chess Club, including Team Captain Dr. Bill Taylor, traveled to Lethbridge to participate in the Fifth Annual Lethbridge-Medicine Hat "Team" Chess Challenge. Medicine Hat emerged victorious for the second year in a row, with a 9 - 3 score, to edge ahead in the series with 3 victories. With the victory, came the opportunity to retain the permanent trophy created specially for this event until this year's match. A suitably engraved plaque was attached to the Team Chess Challenge trophy, and it was housed at City Hall in downtown Medicine Hat for most of this past year.

A return match was agreed to, in principle, for about the same time in March, 2012. Following consultations between Dr. Bill Taylor (Team Captain, (T.C.) of Team Medicine Hat) and Dr. Paul Viminitz (T.C. of Team Lethbridge), March 17th, 2012 was the chosen date.

Six players, including Dr. Viminitz, travelled to Medicine Hat to the Next Step Residential Services building, the current home of the Medicine Hat Chess Club (MHCC). Team Lethbridge was represented by Pat Porter, Greg Holmes, Peter Imhof, Garth Dunn, Dr. Viminitz, and Kurt Berndtsson. The Medicine Hat team included Andrew Wallbank, Jerry Fitzgerald, Glenn Harper, Ryan Barnes, John Clapham (a 17 year-old Grade 12 student from McCoy High School), and Ryan Sunley. Missing were some of our stronger players (Jordan Schiber, Martin Sermak, and Adam Szulski - who was in South America learning to tango!). Delicious cookies and muffins provided at a discount by Perkins' Family Restaurant (thanks to Carrie Evangelos) were provided for all participants. Additionally there was coffee, bottled water, soft drinks, tea, and an assorted selection of Werther's® candies.

After a few opening remarks by the Team Captains, Drs. Taylor and Viminitz, a coin toss took place. Lethbridge won the toss. Dr. Viminitz and his team elected to take the white pieces in the first round.

Initially, Dr. Taylor had planned to play, but as Lethbridge only brought 6 players, Dr. Taylor willingly stepped out of the starting line to "manage" the event. Unlike last year, when Medicine Hat was decisively victorious, the roles were completely reversed. In Round one, the Lethbridge Chess Team emerged victorious with a perfect 6-0 record. Andrew Wallbank (on Board 1) had drawing chances, but ran out of time. Similarly, Glenn Harper had drawing chances, but ran short of time, and in my opinion, lost an arguably winning mid game position. In keeping with tradition, lunch was provided for Team Lethbridge. Jerry Fitzgerald took Kurt and Greg to Perkin's Family Restaurant. Ryan Sunley and his father also ate there. Round one did not end until about 1:15 p.m., so Dr. Taylor elected to take the remaining Lethbridge players and Team Medicine Hat over to a nearby Tim Horton's Restaurant. The attendant costs were paid for the Lethbridge Chess Team members by their Medicine Hat hosts.

Round two commenced just after 1415 hrs. Medicine Hat fared slightly better with Glenn Harper emerging victorious over Peter Imhof, and Andrew drawing a slightly better end game against his opponent (Pat Porter). Grievous errors were made on some of the other boards (no names mentioned here!), and there were some positions that were just slowly lost. The final team score in favor of Lethbridge was 10.5 - 1.5. By emerging victorious, Team Lethbridge has evened the score at 3 victories apiece in the Annual Lethbridge-Medicine Hat

"Team" Chess Challenge. Congratulations on your victory Lethbridge!!

With the victory, Team Lethbridge earned the right to keep the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat "Team" Chess Challenge trophy for the next year. It will be properly inscribed with the names of the team members, their scores, and the date of the victory. A picture of the Lethbridge Chess Team holding the trophy was taken outside prior to their departure.

Next year, Medicine Hat will travel to Lethbridge for a return match. This will likely take place on Saturday, March 16th, 2013. In the meantime, Medicine Hat will

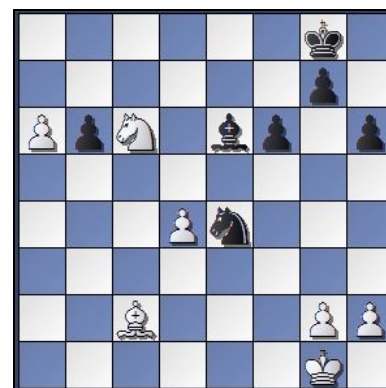
be left to consume ample helpings of "humble" pie, and perhaps plot their revenge.

Dr. Bill Taylor
*President, Medicine Hat Chess Club
Team Captain, Team Medicine Hat
Co-Organizer, Lethbridge-Medicine Hat
"Team" Chess Challenge*

Porter, Patrick (1774) - Wallbank, Andrew (1804)

Medicine Hat vs Lethbridge Challenge
MHCC (1), 2012

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 d4 4.Ne2 c5 5.c3
Nc6 6.cxd4 cxd4 7.Qa4 Bc5 8.b4 Bb6 9.b5
Nce7 10.Nexd4 e5 11.Nc2 Ng6 12.Bb2
Qe7 13.Ne3 Bxe3 14.fxe3 Nf6 15.Be2 b6
16.0-0 Bb7 17.Bd3 Nd7 18.Ba3 Nc5
19.Bxc5 Qxc5 20.Rac1 Qe7 21.Rc3 0-0
22.Rfc1 Rfc8 23.Rxc8+ Rxc8 24.Rxc8+
Bxc8 25.Qc4 Be6 26.Qc2 h6 27.Bc4 Qc5
28.Bb3 Qxc2 29.Bxc2 Bxa2 30.Bd3 f6
31.Ne1 Nf8 32.Nc2 Nd7 33.Nb4 Be6
34.Nc6 Nc5 35.Bc2 a6 36.d4 exd4 37.exd4
Nxe4 38.bxa6 1-0



Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Kent Karapita
Email
kentkarapita@hotmail.com

Medicine Hat Chess Club
Next Step Residential Services
Building

402 Maple Avenue SE
Wednesdays

mid-September to mid-June
Contact: Bill Taylor 403.526.5484
403.527.3574, taylorwm@shaw.ca

2012 Northern Alberta Open

By: IM Edward Porper



Northern Alberta Open took place on February, 18th and 19th in Edmonton Chess Club. With the rating favourite Edward Porper out of form, the warrior from Saskatchewan Robert Sasata out of retirement, the young prodigy Richard Wang clearly on the rise and a couple of experienced and ever dangerous players - such as Nic Haynes and Rob Gardner - in the roster, it couldn't fail to become a hotly contested event. Everyone of the above-mentioned was playing a pretty decent chess - and as a result, quite a few participants had a realistic shot at the top honours. In the end those went to another player on the rise, the hard-working and persistent Alex Yam from Calgary. Alex has put a lot of time and effort into studying chess and now it seems like he starts reaping the harvest by collecting some coveted scalps. In this particular tournament he added two notable ones to his trophy-bag: in rounds 3 and 4 he consequently downed Porper and Haynes - both with White and even in the same variation he undoubtedly kept up his sleeve for an occasion like that. With 4 out of 4 he had few scruples accepting a draw from Wang and deservedly qualifying for the Alberta Closed in April. Richard Wang could have kept him company after an impressive win with Black against Sasata - but for unnecessarily dropping an extra half-a-point to Jim Daniluk. That resulted in 4/5 and a share of the second place with Porper and Haynes both of whom managed to recover from their loss to the eventual winner. Apart from the main prizes, there were plenty of ones for old and young - literally so as the U-2000 top spot went to a junior Jamil Kassam, while the U-1700 fell to the almost unsuspecting and somewhat

advanced in years George Sponga. Ali Razzag did his TD-ing best to provide for a pretty friendly and smooth tournament.

Yam, Alex (2326) - Porper, Edward (2441) [B02] NAO - 2012

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nc3 Nxc3 4.bxc3 d6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Qd5 7.d4 Bf5 8.Be3 Nd7 9.Nf3 Qe4 10.Kd2!?



Qd5 11.Bd3 e6 12.Ke2 Nb6 13.Qb1 Be7 14.Qb3 Bxd3+ 15.cxd3 Qc6 16.a4 a5 17.Qb5 Nd5 18.Bd2 Kd7 19.Rhf1 Ra6 20.c4 Nb4 21.d5 Qxb5 22.axb5 Raa8 23.Nd4 Rhf8 24.Rxf7 Rxf7 25.dxe6+ Ke8 26.exf7+ Kxf7 27.Rf1+ Kg8 28.Nf5 Bf8 29.d4 c6 30.b6 Rd8 31.Bxb4 Bxb4 32.c5 Kf7 33.Ke3 Rd7 34.Nd6+ Ke6 35.Ke4 Bc3 36.Kd3 Bb4 37.Kc4 1-0



2012 March of Kings

By: Frank Kluytmans

Calgary Chess Club-Saturday/Sunday Mar 24/25, 2012

This year we had a reasonable turnout of 15 players, 4 of which were juniors. Here are the round by round summaries.

Round 1

The top 6 rated players as expected won their games. There was one upset when junior Derek Zhang rated 1031 drew with class "A" player Paul Usselman rated 1857, a difference of 826 points.

Round 2

Again the top 4 rated players won their games. We now had 3 players undefeated

with 2.0 points: Roy Yearwood, Itohan Gold and Krishneel Singh.

Round 3

With Itohan Gold taking a bye, the game between the 2 undefeated players had Roy Yearwood beating Krishneel Singh. Third round standings now had Roy Yearwood ahead with 3.0 points, Paul Usselman with 2.5, Itohan Gold, Krishneel Singh, Arthur Milne, Trevor Robertson all with 2.0 points.

Round 4

Itohan Gold won against the lone undefeated player Roy Yearwood, and took over sole possession of first place with 3.5 points. Tied for 2nd - 4th with 3.0 points were Roy Yearwood, Krishneel Singh and Arthur Milne.

Round 5

Itohan Gold kept winning by defeating Krishneel Singh, to be the final winner with 4.5 points and 1st prize of \$200. Roy Yearwood won over Arthur Milne and took sole possession of 2nd place with 4.0 points and 2nd prize of \$100. With his win over Adam Harris, Paul Usselman took 3rd prize with 3.5 points and \$50. Zeling Li was the highest finisher with a rating of under 1100 with 2.5 points and prize of \$45.

Fort McMurray Chess Club

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

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

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





FM Pechenkin Wins 2012 Edmonton Championship

By: Micah Hughey

Each year in January, the Edmonton Chess Club hosts its City Championship, with the top 16 local players competing in two-game elimination matches until a Champion is decided.

This year the defending Champion, IM Edward Porper, faced the 2010 Champion, FM Vladimir Pechenkin, in the final match. It was the third time in recent years that they had confronted each other in the final, with Porper winning the first two contests with perfect 2-0 scores. Let us follow their paths to the final.

The Early Rounds

In the first round, Pechenkin downed the 15th seed, George Sponga, 2-0. Meanwhile, Porper eliminated 16th-ranked Willy Majaducon 2-0 finishing the first game with a nice mating attack.

IM Porper, Edward (2441)- Majaducon, Willy (1809)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Qc2 0-0 8.Bd3 h6 9.Bh4 Re8 10.Nge2 Nbd7 11.Bg3 Nf8 12.h3 Bd6 13.Bh4 Be7 14.0-0 Bd7 15.a3 b5 16.f3 b4 17.axb4 Bxb4 18.e4 dxe4 19.fxe4 g5 20.Bg3 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Qe7 22.Be5 Nh5 23.Ng3 Nxg3 24.Bxg3 Be6 25.Qe2 Ng6 26.Qh5 Kg7 27.e5 Rg8

28.Rf6 Kh7 29.h4 gxh4 30.Bxh4 Qf8 31.Raf1 Qg7 32.Rxe6 fxe6 33.Rf6 a5 34.Bg5 Ra7 35.Rxg6 Qxg6 36.Qxh6# 1-0

In the Quarterfinals, the underdogs put up tougher fights, but the favourites still came through. Porper defeated NM Sardul Purewal 1.5-0.5, while Pechenkin eliminated Aaron Sequillion 1.5-0.5, including a very nice combination in game two.

Sequillion, Aaron (1998)- FM Pechenkin, Vladimir (2320)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.g3 Bb4 7.Nde2 Nf6 8.Bg2 Be7 9.0-0 d6 10.a4 Nc6 11.h3 0-0 12.g4 b6 13.Ng3 Bb7 14.g5 Nd7 15.h4 Rfe8 16.b3 Nb4 17.Bb2 Qc5 18.Kh1 Ne5 19.Rc1 Ng6 20.Qg4 f5! 21.exf5? Bxg2+ 22.Kxg2 exf5 23.Nxf5 Qxf5! 24.Qxb4 Nf4+ 25.Kg3 Qh3+ 0-1

Only the Masters remained in the Semifinals. Pechenkin took on NM Robert Gardner, while Porper faced Edmonton's top junior, NM Richard Wang.

All games were drawn in the regular matches, so they fought it out in an Active playoff, where the top seeds squeaked through. Pechenkin's Active playoff included the following double pawn sacrifice in the opening for a massive attack.

FM Pechenkin, Vladimir (2320)- NM Gardner, Robert (2195) (Active Playoff)

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 dxc4 4.Na3 Bxa3 5.bxa3 c6 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 a6 8.Nf3 Nf6 9.Ba3 Nd5 10.Rb1 Qa5 11.0-0 Nd7 12.e4 N5b6 13.Bb4 Qxa4 14.Qb2 Nf6 15.Qd4 Nbd7 16.Ne5 a5 17.Bd6 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 0-0 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qxf6 Qa3 21.e5 Re8 22.Bxc6 Ba6 23.Rbe1 Qd3 24.Re4 Qd8 25.Rg4+ Kf8 26.Qg7+ Ke7 27.Rf4 1-0

The Final

And so the top two players had reached the final again.

The first game of the 2-game match was complex, with Porper's connected passers on the queenside trying to outrace Pechenkin's raging kingside attack. In the end, Pechenkin took the first game with a deep combination starting on move 31.

Pechenkin, Vladimir (2320)- Porper, Edward (2441) Edmonton Championship (4.1),

1.c4 b6 2.Nc3 Bb7 3.e4 e6 4.Nge2 Nf6 5.d3 c5 6.g3 Be7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Ne8 9.f4 f5 10.Be3 Na6 11.h3 Nac7 12.g4 g6 13.Ng3 Bh4 14.Nce2 Bf6 15.Rb1 fxe4 16.dxe4 d5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.e5 Bg7 19.b4 c4 20.Nd4 Qd7 21.Qc2 g5 22.Ngf5 gxf4 23.Bxf4 Ne6 24.Nxe6 Qxe6 25.Rbe1 Rd8 26.Kh1 Ba8 27.Nd4 Qe7 28.Qd2 Rc8 29.b5 c3 30.Qd3 Rc4



After 30...Rc4

31.Nc6! Bxc6 32.Bxd5+! Bxd5+ 33.Qxd5+ Qf7 34.e6 Qxf4 35.e7+ Rf7 36.Rxf4 Rxf4 37.Qd8 Rf1+ 38.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 39.Kg2 c2 40.Qxe8+ Bf8 41.exf8Q+ Rxf8 42.Qe6+ Kg7 43.Qe5+ Kg8 44.Qd5+ 1-0

Game two was a seesaw affair, with both players having chances to win. Pechenkin stayed true to the Dutch Defence, as he has throughout his years in Edmonton. Porper, in a must win situation, aimed for an attacking game with castling on opposite sides.

Porper, Edward (2441) - Pechenkin, Vladimir (2320) Edmonton Championship (4.2),

[Annotations by Micah Hughey]

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 d6 4.h4 e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Qc2 0-0 7.Bg5 Ng4 8.e4 h6 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.0-0-0 f4 11.h5 e5 12.c5 Be6 13.Kb1!? dxc5 14.d5 Bf7 15.Bc4 a6 16.Nh4 Qg5 17.Nf3 Qe7

Porper's pawn sacrifice has given him attacking chances. Pechenkin is happy to repeat, as a draw will win the Championship. 18.a4 Nd7 This knight will move swiftly to a good defensive position on the d6-square. 19.Qe2 Nb6 20.Ba2 Nc8 21.Rdg1 Nd6 22.g3 fxg3 23.Rxg3 Nf6

24.Qe3 Kh7 25.Qxc5 Nxh5!

A brave move to keep the extra pawn. This knight will occupy the f4-outpost. 26.Rgh3 Nf4 27.R3h2 Bg6 28.Qe3 b5 29.Nh4 Rf6 30.Nxg6 Rxg6 31.Bb3 bxa4 32.Nxa4 Rb8 33.Nc5 Nb5!

The knight has done its defensive job on d6, and now heads for the other outpost on d4.

34.Rc1 Nd4

All of Pechenkin's pieces are well placed, and he remains up a pawn with a safer king.

35.Bd1 Rb5 36.Na4 Rg1 37.f3 Rg6 38.Rd2 Ng2 39.Qf2 Nb3?

In time pressure, Black allows his best piece to be traded for White's worst. Not only that, but White's a4-knight will leap to the excellent e6-outpost with tempo, and win back the sacrificed pawn. 40.Bxb3 Rxb3 41.Nc5 Rbb6 42.Ne6 Nf4 [The c7-pawn can not be saved. If 42...Rb7 then 43.Qc5 and black has run out of defenders.]

43.Rxc7 Qd6



After 43. Qd6

44.Nxf4?!

Porper may have missed a chance to save the match. At the winner's dinner celebration after the tournament, the new Champion showed that Porper could have played 44.Rd7! Qb4 (44...Qxd7?? 45.Nf8+) 45.Nxf4 exf4 46.e5 when the connected passed pawns will be very hard to stop.

44...Qxc7 45.Nxg6 Rxg6 46.Rc2

Porper presses on with a strong passed d-pawn and nothing to lose.

46...Qd8 47.Rc1 Rf6 48.Qg3 Qe8 49.Rg1 Rg6 50.Qf2 Rf6 51.Rg3 Qf7 52.Qg2 Rb6 53.Qc2 Rf6 54.Qc3 Qh5 55.Ka2 Qe8 56.Qb3 Qf7 57.Kb1 Qh5 58.Qb7 Rf7 59.Qxa6 Rxf3 60.Rxf3 Qxf3 61.Qc4 Qd1+ 62.Ka2 h5

Pechenkin reminds us that he too has a passed pawn.

63.Qc6 h4 64.d6 h3 65.Qd7 Qf1 66.Qf5+ Qxf5 67.exf5 h2 68.d7 h1Q 69.d8Q Qe4 70.Qd7 Kh8 71.Kb3 Qf3+ 72.Kc2 e4 73.b4 e3

As the e-pawn can not be stopped, Porper must take the perpetual, making Vladimir Pechenkin the new Edmonton Champion.

74.Qe8+ Kh7 75.Qg6+ Kh8 76.Qe8+ ½-½

Congratulations to FM Vladimir Pechenkin for a well deserved victory.

The Reserves

For players who did not qualify for the 16 -player Championship, or who were eliminated during the Championship, there was an open Swiss held alongside the main event, called the Edmonton Reserves.

Aaron Sequillion and your humble author NM Micah Hughey, both of whom were eliminated in the Championship, came back strong in the Reserves to tie for 1st place with 6/8.



2012 Lethbridge Open

By: Frank Kluytmans

Last weekend Saturday/Sunday there was the Lethbridge Open, with 14 participants from all over the province of Alberta: Lethbridge – 8, Calgary - 2, Edmonton - 2 and Medicine Hat – 2. Special mention must be made to Paul Viminitz who sponsored the event, billeted a number of participants and hosted a wine and cheese party on Saturday night after round 3. Calgarian Vlad Rekhson was undefeated with 5.0 points and took 1st place with \$200

Tied for 2nd-4th splitting \$180 were: Roy Yearwood from Calgary, Aaron Sequillion from Edmonton, and Andrew Wallbank from Medicine Hat.

Tied for 1st-2nd in Under 1800 rating splitting \$60 were:

Garth Dunn and Peter Davis-Imhof, both from Lethbridge.

Tied for 1st-2nd in Under 1500 rating splitting \$50 were:

Medicine Hat newcomer Ryan Barnes and Lethbridge junior Jafar Faraji.

Round 1 Summary

All 7 top rated players were expected to win and did so.

Round 2 Summary

Top 4 rated players won and each of these: Vlad Rekhson, Roy Yearwood, Aaron Sequillion and Garth Dunn were tied for 1st-4th with 2.0 points. One minor upset occurred when Kurt Berndtsson rated 1259 drew with Peter Davis-Imhof rated 1622.

Round 3 Summary

Both Len Steele and Paul Viminitz too a break with a bye this round. The only undefeated play was Vlad Rekhson with 3.0 points. An unusual draw after 6 moves happened between Roy Yearwood and Aaron Sequillion, each of them now had 2.5 points.

Round 4 Summary

Vlad Rekhson continued his winning ways by defeating higher ranked Roy Yearwood. Our host Paul Viminitz won his first game against Jack Davies. Vlad now had 4.0 points alone in 1st place, Aaron Sequillion was in 2nd place with 3.5 points.

Final Round 5 Summary

Vlad Rekhson continued his winning ways by beating Aaron Sequillion and taking 1st place with an outstanding score of 5.0 points. Andrew Wallbank had the opportunity of taking sole 2nd place, but had to take a draw with Patrick Porter.

The final standings and tournament games are available at:

<http://albertachess.org/2012LO.html>

Rekhson, Vladislav (2043) - Sequillion, Aaron (2016)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 e6 6.cxd4 d6 7.exd6 Bxd6 8.Nc3 Nd7 9.Bd3 h6 10.0-0 N7f6 11.Re1 a6 12.Ne5 b5 13.Qf3 Bb7 14.Qg3 g5 15.Qh3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Qe7 17.Bxg5 0-0-0 18.Bh4 Rdg8 19.Bf1 h5 20.Nxf7 Qxf7 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rxe6 Bxh2+ 23.Kh1 Qg7 24.Re7+ 1-0

Airdrie Chess Club Airdrie Public Library 111 304 Main Street Contact: Larry Besplug (president) email: besplug@shaw.ca or Dennis Young: panaspor@hotmail.com	La Crete Chess Club Contact: Chris White H: (780)9283523 W: (780)9283632 email: fagandrivepark@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	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 vimip0@uleth.ca
Calgary Junior Chess Club Contact: Simon Ong email: simong89@yahoo.ca website: http://sites.google.com/site/calgaryjuniorchessclub	University of Lethbridge Chess Club e-mail: chess.club@uleth.ca website: http://people.uleth.ca/%7Echess.club
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Fort McMurray Chess Club Westwood Family YMCA: 221 Tundra Drive. Thursday for adults 6PM -10PM and for kids every Saturday 1-4PM. For more information call Jina at: 780.715.9332 or e-mail at: swp@shaw	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
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	Sherwood Park Strathcona County Library, 2nd Floor Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to closing Contact: Les Jones phone: 780.467.7393
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	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
	<p>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.</p> <p>Email: vrekhsen@yahoo.ca for more information</p> 



Contact us:

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

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