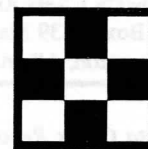




ALBERTA CHESS REPORT



A Newsletter Published by the Alberta Chess Association
August 1992
Vol. 17 No. 3

1992 Alberta Closed

Greg Huber and Arniel Frialde were the Co-Champions, tying with 5.5 out of 7. As Arniel found it inconvenient to play a match to decide the championship, he graciously stepped aside to allow Greg to represent Alberta in the Canadian Closed. Rob Gardner finished 3rd with 4.5 points, followed closely by Tony Peredo and Réjean Plante, each with 4/7. First-timers Wilf Lahrkamp, Arthur Odachowski and Azmat Hussain had a tough time, but gained some good experience for the future. Ted Wilson directed. (Thanks to Barney Fegyverneki for this paragraph and the crosstable!)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1 G Huber	2259	x	=	1	1	=	=	1	1	5.5
2 A Frialde	2238	=	x	=	=	1	1	1	1	5.5
3 R Gardner	2242	0	=	x	0	1	1	1	1	4.5
4 T Peredo	2117	0	=	1	x	0	=	1	1	4.0
5 R Plante	2101	=	0	0	1	x	1	=	1	4.0
6 W Lahrkamp	2109	=	0	0	=	0	x	=	=	2.0
7 A Odachowski	2128	0	0	0	0	=	=	x	1	2.0
8 A Hussain	1967	0	0	0	0	0	=	0	x	0.5

(rating shown is the player's current rating)

Something went wrong somewhere, and the game scores (they are normally collected on site) weren't sent to the ACR, so the contribution by Greg Huber of the following 3 games is most appreciated!

Greg Huber - Arnie Frialde (round 1)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.e5 Ne4 6.Bd2 Nxd2 7.Qxd2 Bf5 8.exd e6 9.Nf3 Bxd6 10.Ne5 Bb4 11.Be2 h5 12.Bf3 Na6 13.a3 Rd8 14.Nc4 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qa4 16.Ne3 Bg6 17.O-O-O 18.Rab1 b6 19.Qe2 Nc7 20.Bxh5 Bxh5 21.Qxh5 Nd5 22.Rf3 Nxc3 23.Rh3 f6 24.Re1 Qxd4 25.Qh7+ Kf7 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Qh7+ Kf7 28.Qh5+ Kg8 (draw).

Greg Huber - Réjean Plante (round 5)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.d4 cxd 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.O-O Bc5 8.Nc3 d6 9.a4 Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.g4 Bg6 12.Qe2 Qd7 13.Kg2 Nxd4 14.hxg4 Qxg4+ 15.Kh1 Nd4 16.Nh2 Qxe2 17.Nxe2 Nxe2 18.Bxe2 Bxe4+ 19.Bf3 Bxf3+ 20.Nxf3 h6 21.Be3 Bxe3 22.fxe3 Rc8 23.c3 Ke7 24.Rfd1 f5 25.Rd5 g5 26.Rad1 Rc6 27.Nxe5 dxe5 28.Rxe5+ Kf6 29.R1d5 (draw).

Greg Huber - Rob Gardner (round 6)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb g6 5.b6 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.a4 a5 8.e4 g6 9.f4 Bg7 10.Nf3 Qxb6 11.Ra3 Rb8 12.Bc4 Ba6 13.Rb3 Qa7 14.Rxb8+ Nxb8 15.Bb5+ Nfd7 16.O-O-O 17.Re1 Nf6 18.h3 Ne8 19.e5 Nc7 20.exd exd 21.f5 Bxb5 22.axb5 Qb7 23.Bg5 Bxc3 24.bxc3 Qxd5 25.Qa4 Qxf5 26.b6 Nd5 27.b7 Qd7 28.Qb3 Nc7 29.Re7 Qb5 30.Qa2 Qxb7 31.Bh6 Qd5 32.Qxa5 Ne6 33.Bxf8 Nxf8 34.Qc7 Nc6 35.Re8 Kg7 36.Qb7 Ne6 37.Rxe6 Qxe6 38.Qxc6 Qe3+ 39.Kf1 Qc1+ 40.Kf2 Qc2+ 41.Kg3 Qxc3 42.Qxd6 f6 43.Qe7+ Kg8 44.Kh2 h5 45.Nh4 Qe5+ 46.Qxe5 fxe5 47.Nxg6 e4 48.Kg3 c4 49.Nf4 c3 50.Ne2 c2 51.Kf4 (1-0).

Top-Rated Albertans (as of June 16/92)

Torsten Linker	2400
Robert South	2336
Fred South	2272 •
Greg Huber	2259
Dale Haessel	2249
Rob Gardner	2242
Arniel Frialde	2238
Andrew Paduch	2237
Zoltan Baunok	2194 •
Barney Fegyverneki	2181
Brad Willis	2160
Gordon Campbell	2160 •
Milan Rabljenovic	2145 •
Arthur Odachowski	2128
Neil Sharp	2118
Tony Peredo	2117
Wilf Lahrkamp	2109
Paul Thibodeau	2109
Réjean Plante	2101
Jim Daniluk	2083
John Parrott	2082
Farzan Nazarian	2079
Chris Demers	2077
Paul Usselman	2073
Andrew Dudek	2061
Omar Farid	2058
Ted Wilson	2043
Lev Becker	2037 •
Bob Bosenius	2035 •
Tony Dy Reyes	2029 •
Darse Billings	2027
Tracy Kolenchuk	2019
Sardul Purewal	2017
Vincent Young	2015 •
Ken Salmon	2013
Lloyd Yeudall	2013

"•" = not known (by ACR) to have played in a regular-rated Alberta event in approx. the past year. Only current or "recent" (expired in the past year) ACA members are included.

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Alberta Chess Association
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The *Alberta Chess Report (ACR)* is published by the *Alberta Chess Association (ACA)*. Uncredited articles were written by the Editor. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the ACA.

Editor: Len Steele

ACA Board of Directors

President: Ford Wong
Vice-President: Mike Sekuloff
Secretary: Mike Barkwell
Treasurer: John Quiring
Past-President: Fred McFaul
Directors: Bill Bentley, Bruce Kiely, Phil Lefkowitz, Brian Murdoch, Steven Peter, Réjean Plante, Paul Usselman, Brad Willis.

Membership Fees

ACA-Senior \$5 per year
ACA-Junior \$3 per year
ACA-Participating \$1 per year

"Junior" & "Participating" memberships to those 17 years of age or less (submit birthdate). Participating members don't get *En Passant* or *ACR*. Life memberships available. Chess Federation of Canada membership includes ACA (required for Albertans): senior-\$30; junior-\$18; partic.-\$8/year.

Provide player's full name, address and CFC number (if previous member). Birthdate required for junior and participating members. Please state if a member is female. If submitting fees to ACA, phone number optional, but appreciated. Where applicable include school and grade, if possible.

ACR Deadline

Material for inclusion in the next *ACR* should be received by: **October 20**. Items received after that date may be delayed to a later *ACR*. (Up to 5 *ACR*'s are published each year.)

Reminder to Tournament Directors

CFC regulations require a report to be submitted within 7 days of the end of an event. *You owe it to your participants to send in rating and membership reports to the CFC as soon as possible.* A written report can be sent then or a little later to both *En Passant* and the *ACR* (please support the *ACR* too!).

Always Get a Receipt

When you pay for a CFC/ACA membership, be sure to get a dated receipt signed by the person who collected your money. Retain the receipt until your new CFC card arrives.

ALBERTA CHESS CLUBS

(not including junior and school clubs)

CALGARY CC

Meets: Rosemont Community Assoc. Hall 2807-10 St NW. Tues., 7:00-11:00.

Info: Barney Fegyvermeki (243-6351; mail: c/o 1724-49 Ave SW, Calgary T2T 2T9).

CCC 1992-93 Schedule

Sept 1: Pre-registration for Fall Open.

Sept 8 - Oct 20: *Fall Open*. 7 rds.

(TD: Tim McMurphy 253-9683).

Oct 27: *Grand Prix Speed # 1*. (TD for the series: Ted Wilson 240-1419).

Nov 3 - Dec 15: *Calgary CC Championship*. 7 rds. (TD: Jim Daniluk 248-7456).

Dec 22: *Grand Prix Speed # 2*.

Dec 29: Fun and/or Speed Night.

Jan 5/93: Pre-registration for Calgary Closed.

Jan 12 - Feb 23/93: *Calgary Closed*. 7 rds. (TD: Greg Huber 286-1873).

Mar 2/93: *Grand Prix Speed # 3*.

Mar 9 - Apr 20/93: *Calgary Open*. 7 rds. (TD: Brian Starkes 243-2026).

Apr 27/93: *Grand Prix Speed # 4*.

May 4 - Jun 15/93: *Spring Open*. 7 rds. (TD: Jim Van Wyck 265-0098).

Jun 22/93: *Grand Prix Speed # 5*.

EDMONTON CC

Meets: Oliver Community Hall, 10326-118 St, Edmonton T5K 2K9, Thurs., 7:00-12:00.

Info: George Heagle (425-1471), Arniel Frialde (481-2552).

ECC 1992 Schedule

Sept 3: *Annual General Meeting*.

Sept 10: *Edmonton Open* begins.

(1992-93 schedule in a future *ACR*)

GRANDE PRAIRIE CC

Meets: Royal Canadian Legion, 9912-101 Ave, Tues., 7:00 p.m. (Sept. 1 - Apr. 30).

Info: Phil Lefkowitz (538-1903; mail: c/o 9305-74 Ave, Grande Prairie T8V 6G2).

HINTON CC

Meets: Hinton Municipal Library. "Group play" Wed., 5:00-8:00. "Casual play" during regular library hours.

Info: Bob McIntyre (865-2778; mail: 270 Eaton Dr, Hinton T0E 1B0).

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES CC

Meets: at Branko's home (near Boyle).

Info: Branko Georgijevic (689-2476; mail: Box 558, Boyle T0A 0M0).

RED DEER CC

Meets: Monday evenings (we think). Call for information as to this Fall's meeting place and time.

Info: Brian Murdoch (343-6664 daytime only), c/o 97 Oliver St, Red Deer T4P 1W2.

RIMBEY CC

Info: Cameron McLean (843-3736; mail: c/o Box 733, Rimbey T0C 2J0).

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CC

Meets: SUB 030D (basement), approx. 11:00-4:00 weekdays, September-April.

Info: Louis Wang (430-9706; mail: Box 92, Students Union Bldg, U of A, Edmonton T6G 2J7).

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY CC

Meets: *It appears that the club has "folded". Hopefully, it will restart in September and we can announce details next ACR.*

(We rely on clubs to keep this information current. You may wish to confirm details with a club before attending a meeting.)

Check out the tournament announcements in this issue, and register in advance wherever possible!

* CLUBS *

Please ensure that info on this page is *correct*. Remember, *your members* would like to see reports on *your club's* tournaments and activities in the *ACR*!

* ORGANIZERS *

Planning "weekend" tournament(s)?
Please send in details well in advance.

* TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS *

We would appreciate a copy of your *En Passant* report (or a story written for your fellow Albertans). Prize list, crosstable, and/or game(s) an asset. *THANKS in advance!*

Canadian Correspondence Chess Assoc.

Have you had the pleasure of chess by mail? Young/old, experts/beginners take part. A wide variety of tournaments is available, both in your own class and in open events leading to the Canadian Championship. Play people all over the world in our international program. Best of all, you can make friends and enjoy yourself in the comfort of your own home! Exciting and instructive games plus 6 issues of *CHECK!* for an annual membership fee of only \$19 adults or \$16 if under 18 or over 65. For free details and a sample copy of *CHECK!* (only \$3) write:

Manny Migicovsky
RR #1, L'Original, ON, K0K 1K0

NEWS FROM THE ACA

by Ford Wong, ACA President

Canadian Chess Challenge Finals in Alberta Next Year

The 1993 Canadian Chess Challenge Finals will be held in Edmonton over the May long weekend. 120 grade school players from all ten provinces are expected to play in this two day event, with Quebec being the defending Champion. It will be interesting to see how the teams from the east do since they will now be the ones who have to travel the furthest.

In the past, a problem which may have prevented many players from participating may have been the fact that the finalists had to pay their own travel expenses to the Nationals (accommodation and breakfast were provided). Next year, with the finals being in Alberta, travel costs for Alberta players should be minimal and all our winners in each grade should be able to play. Hopefully, this will encourage more Alberta school chess players to participate and help make the Alberta portion a bigger success. [Note: in past years Alberta players received travel assistance from the ACA (\$100 each) and this year the ACA was also given an RPW Grant of \$1500 to help with travel expenses.]

Hosting the Finals in 1993 will require a lot of funds. Some funding is expected to come from Alberta Government and City of Edmonton Hosting grants. Other sources of revenue will be from the National Organizers, perhaps the CFC, and from fundraising.

Phyllis Flower who is also the coordinator of the Alberta part of the Canadian Chess Challenge, will be organizing this event. If you would like to help out or volunteer your services, please contact the Alberta Chess Association.

Fundraising

Fundraising has always been difficult for the ACA. Over the years the Board has considered many ideas (raffles, selling chocolate bars, increasing membership fees, etc.), but none were ever accepted.

This year the ACA Board of Directors has voted to apply for a casino. The application has been sent in and the ACA is awaiting approval from the Alberta Gaming Commission. If the application is approved, the ACA Casino will probably be held in Calgary. There is a one year wait for Casinos in Calgary and at least a year and half wait in Edmonton. It would be quicker to get a Casino in Red Deer, but manpower may be a problem.

To be able to host a Casino, the Association must have about 60 volunteers to help out (note: names of all volunteers must be provided up to 3 months before the Casino dates). I trust that, if the ACA does get a Casino, many of you will be willing to volunteer when the ACA asks you to help out.

The potential to make a tremendous profit is there for a short two days work. Assuming that a profit is made, the ACA intends to spend the earnings in the following ways (subject to approval by the Alberta Gaming Commission — where the profits from a Casino are spent is strictly regulated):

1. Canadian Chess Challenge Finals.
2. Club Support: The ACA intends to help existing chess clubs with room rental costs which may help ease nightly dues, memberships costs, etc.
3. Travel costs to National Tournaments.
4. Travel costs to Provincial Finals.
5. Canadian Open Fund. The ACA would like to host a Canadian Open sometime in the future (preferably in Calgary). Of course, where the profits are spent can also be changed at a later date (subject to Gaming Commission approval).

ACA Annual General Meeting ACA Elections

For those of you who are interested, the ACA Annual General Meeting will be held between rounds 3 and 4 of the Alberta Open in Red Deer on October 11th. This year the positions up for election are: Vice-President, Secretary, and four Directors.

I would like to thank the following people who have completed their terms on the ACA Board of Directors: Mike Sekuloff, Mike Barkwell, Steven Peter, Phil Lefkowitz, Brad Willis and Bill Bentley, and encourage them to run again if they wish. I also encourage everyone interested in guiding how chess is to be run in Alberta to apply for any of the vacant positions on the ACA Board.

The President's position is not open for election until next year, however I wish to state now that I *do not* intend to run again. Anyone interested in becoming President who does not have organizational experience at the provincial level should attempt to become a member of the ACA Board of Directors this year to gain that experience.

Also at the Annual General Meeting, the ACA will be presenting an "Honorary ACA Membership" to Branko Georgijevic in recognition of his extensive work at schools in northeastern Alberta.

Calgary and Edmonton Junior Chess Clubs Could Close! Can You Help?

That's right! There's no one (yet) to help run either club! *If the ACA does not get new volunteers soon, the junior clubs could fold!*

Without Volunteers...

The Alberta Chess Association is run entirely by volunteers. Without volunteers, many of the ACA chess activities and services would not be available. The existing ACA volunteer base is being *stretched to the limit* so the ACA *must* have more volunteers. Several of the ACA's projects are in real danger of being discontinued or cut back due to lack of help. If you feel that you would like to assist in some way, *please contact the ACA.*

Community Outreach Chess Challenge / Education

This year, as part of the Community Outreach Chess Challenge / Education project, the ACA will be hosting "amateur" tournaments in Red Deer, Grande Prairie and either Medicine Hat or Lethbridge. Watch for advertisements in the local newspapers. Although not part of this project, the ACA is also considering hosting amateur tournaments in Edmonton and Calgary.

The other half of this project is to provide schools, etc. with the opportunity to receive some free chess training from a strong player, e.g. a master. Anyone requesting training will be required to provide a room. If you are interested in this aspect of the project please write to the ACA.

Volunteer Recognition

The ACA recognizes the following volunteer for his efforts in promoting chess:

Rob Gardner

In addition to being one of Alberta's premier players, Rob has unselfishly dedicated himself to keeping the Edmonton Junior Chess Club alive, helping develop Junior chess players, and organizing Junior Championship tournaments and school team tournaments in Edmonton. Also, Rob has been one of Alberta's most active CFC governors.

(If you can suggest someone whose efforts in promoting chess should be recognized, please submit their name and details to the ACA.)

1st Annual Chess Hacker's Open
by *Craig Vokey, TD*

This 5 round Swiss was sponsored by Chess Hacker's BBS (Bruno Knudskov, sysop) and the U of A Chess Club. Réjean Plante and Christiaan Dartana tied for top spot with 4/5. Top Under 1800 was Ravi Trikha, who managed to win his final three games after losing his first two. Réjean continued to demonstrate why he has such shiny horseshoes as he needed to do some heavy polishing for a couple of his games (especially the one with Bruno). Ever notice how higher-rated players are always lucky? Maybe it's not just luck (at least that's what they keep telling me).

The tournament was enjoyed by all but was considered to be a complete flop due to the absence of ACA President 'Mr. Big' (aka Ford Wong). Thanks go to Bruno Knudskov for doing much of the leg work (*hmm, what kind of a tournament was it? - ed.*) and to Len Steele for not showing up to complain in person about my late submissions to the ACR (*naw, Craig, I didn't gripe this time, your reports arrived in the same year - ed.*).

C. Dartana - E. Schocat (round 4)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Be2 Nf6 6.O-O cxd4 7.Nxd4 O-O 8.Kh1 Nc6 9.Nb3 Qc7 10.f4 d6 11.Be3 Be6 12.f5 Bxb3 13.axb3 a6 14.fxg6 hxg6 15.Qe1 Rac8 16.Ra4 Qd7 17.Qh4 Ne5 18.h3 Rc6 19.Raa1 Rfc8 20.Rad1 b5 21.b4 Nc4 22.Bc1 Qa7 23.Rf3 Nh5 24.Nd5 Re8 25.c3 Ne5 26.Rff1 Nf6 27.Be3 Qb7 28.Rf2 Nc4 29.Bc1 Qa7 30.Rdf1 Rf8 31.Rxf6 e6 32.Rxe6 Rc7 33.Re7 Ne5 34.Rxc7 Qa8 35.Ne7 mate (1-0).

U of A Open '92
by *Ford Wong, TD*

While everyone else was at the beach or packing for holidays, eight players sac'ed the sunshine and hot weather to play in the "U of A Open". Rather than have an 8-player 5-round Swiss 2-day event, it was decided to change the tournament to two 4-player round robins for one day.

In Group A Eric Schocat shone his way brightly, winning with a perfect 3-0 score. To accomplish this feat, he had to juggle dodging Dartana's kingside attack and time control simultaneously, as well as accept piece offerings from Knudskov and Erdos. Erdos, Knudskov and Dartana, each scoring 1-2, got their rays by tanning each other.

In Group B Richard Allin (0-3) was sunburned by Jan Vandenberg, Cor Dewindt and George Kohler, who warmed up with 2-1 scores.

1992 Calgary Open
by *Brian Starkes, TD*

The 1992 edition of the Calgary Open was held at the Rosemont Community Hall between March 10 and April 21. A field of 22 players took part. The winner, Barney Fegyverneki, repelled all opposition with a perfect score of 7/7. Following Barney there was a 3-way tie for 2nd (5/7) between Wilf Lahrkamp, Farzan Nazarian and Dan Bolianatz. Dan was also 1st Under 2000, Frank King was 1st Under 1700, and Nick Podolchak won the U/R prize.

ECC Easter Active
by *Wayne Mendryk, Co-TD*

The Edmonton Chess Club held a 4-round Easter Active tournament on April 9 and 16. Ferenc Borloi gave up only one draw (to Lloyd Yeudall, Edmonton's Amateur Chess Champion) in scoring 3.5/4 to take clear first. Hafiz Karmali (3/4) and Ravi Trikha (2/4) took the 1600-1900/Unrated and Under 1400 categories, respectively. Thanks to Rob Gardner and Réjean Plante for assistance in directing.

Calgary May Open
by *Barney Fegyverneki*
(TD: *Jim Van Wyck*)

Rob South, Chris Demers and Ted Wilson tied for first with 4/5. Top Under 1800 was also shared, by two newcomers, Max Carcamo and Kevin Turner, each with 3/5. Also in the sharing mood were the Top Juniors, Dan Kiely and Michael Eng, with 2.5/5 scores.

Eaton's Center Active Chess
by *Wayne Mendryk, TD*

On Saturday, June 6, in conjunction with a "Seniors Week" promotion at Edmonton's Eaton's Center, I directed the 4-round "Eaton's Center Active Chess Tournament". Taking first with a perfect 4/4 was Chris Dartana. Art Skeel took second on tiebreak over Gastone Mantovani, both scoring 3/4. Ten players completed all four rounds and hope that the event becomes an annual affair — see you all next year!

Thank you to Eaton's Center for their support of chess in the past. Thanks especially to their Maintenance department for setting up the tables, table covers, etc., and to all the players who helped carry the supplies to my car (my back thanks you too!). Special thanks to Jacqueline Buff of the Eaton's

Calgary July Open
by *Barney Fegyverneki, TD*

This tough fought tournament ended up in a four-way tie for first place after Arthur Odachowski defeated Dale Haessel in round 5. Joining Arthur and Dale with 4/5 were Andrew Paduch and "Newfie transplant" Warrick Walker. Top 1750-1999 went to Grant Brown from Lethbridge. Dave Gomboc and Michael Eng split the Top Under 1750 and Top Junior prizes, while Dan Kiely and Kevin Schade tied for 2nd Junior.

So You Want to Leave at 10:30 Open
by *Wayne "may I never see another adjournment" Mendryk, TD*

Tracy Kolenchuk blazed through the ECC field with 4.5/5 (first round bye). Alex Kuti with 3.5 took second in the open class. Ever-improving George Kohler took first in the 1600-1800/unrated group with 3.5, ahead of Cor Dewindt (3). Ravi Trikha overcame a color mixup (3 blacks in a row) to take honors in the Under 1600 category with 3. Kurt Lauterwald (on tiebreak) was second to Ravi with 2.

ECC Summer Active Tournament
by *Wayne Mendryk, Co-TD*

Joe Tumpek was a perfect 4/4 at the plate (oops, I mean the board) to take first overall ahead of Ferenc Borloi (3/4). Newcomer (to Edmonton, not to chess!) Eddie Urquhart scored 2.5/4 to take the 1600-1800 section ahead of Randy Gouge (2/4). Harold Climenhaga, despite having to play three of the four top-rated players, showed no sign of rust from a recent layoff from chess to take the under 1500/unrated section with 3/4, ahead of this reporter (2/4). Thanks to Harold for his help in setting up and running the tournament. Welcome to new members Eddie Urquhart and Al Kruger. Nice to see Bernie Batchelor back at the club.

Center Promotional Department for the prizes, help and advance publicity of this event and previous Chessfest events.

Finally, thanks should go especially to Arniel Frialde, the President of the Edmonton Chess Club, for attempting to promote the game of chess within Edmonton and increase the membership of the Club. Through his efforts, which convinced Eaton's Center to promote chess through a series of Chessfests, the Edmonton Chess Club has acquired several new members, and increased public awareness of its existence.

Results of ACA Questionnaire

We got 35 completed forms back, which represents almost a 15% return (a big "Thank you!" to those who replied). The results will generally be presented without drawing conclusions — that will be left to the membership and the Board of Directors. In the following, if a particular category doesn't add up to 35, the difference is "no response".

Male respondents 34, female 1. By age: 1 (1-10 years), 3 (11-20), 6 (21-30), 13 (31-40), 8 (41-60), 4 (over 60). Single 15, married 9, married with kids at home 10. Calgary 13, Edmonton 11, Wandering River and Grande Prairie each 2, and 1 each Perryvale, Lethbridge, Thorhild, Kearns (plus 3 replies from out of province!). By rating: 5 (unr.), 1 (below 1400), 5 (1400-1599), 10 (1600-1799), 7 (1800-1999), 6 (2000-2199), and 1 (over 2199).

There were 17 actively playing in a local club, 15 not. 19 played in weekend tournaments, 13 did not. 20 said they would play in out-of-town tournaments, 9 said no. Number of rated games that were played each year: 6 (0), 1 (1-5), 7 (6-10), 4 (11-15), 14 (16 or more). For 2-day weekend tournaments, 11 preferred 5 rounds, 10 liked 4 rounds, 9 didn't care, and 2 were "other".

There were a number of questions answered more/same/less/don't care. "Don't care" plus "no response" outnumbered the

other votes in 5 of the 12 cases, and there were very few "less" votes (never more than 1). There was a general desire for more weekend tournaments, and a strong desire for national events (20 said more, 7 same). 11 wanted more Women's Chess (3 same), 15 more junior chess (6 same), 18 more school chess (3 same), 15 more active chess (4 same), 15 more simulms (3 same), 23 more teaching of chess (3 same).

The leading ways players found out about the ACA were chess club 10, friend 8, *En Passant* (CFC) 6, with 2 via newspaper or magazine, 1 each from a library or booth at mall or event, and 5 "other".

Regarding chess articles and features, 30 wanted more in newspapers (1 no, 2 don't care), and 22 wanted more on TV (3 no, 7 don't care).

Membership fees: increase 4, decrease 2, leave as is 25.

Publicity by the ACA for chess: much more 6, more 21, same 5.

There were three questions with choices of poor (P), fair (F), average (A), good (G), or excellent (E). Using the abbreviations, the responses were:

"How do you rate the Alberta Chess Report?" E-6, G-19, A-3, F-6, P-1 (Thank you for the generally supportive vote. I suspect that most of the F or P responses had to do with wanting more teaching articles, quizzes, annotated games, Canadian and

International news, etc. Please realize we do not have the funds for a large magazine [5 sheets of paper meets the lowest postal rate], nor the resources to produce one on a continuing basis. The ACR is a "newsletter", not a "magazine", and its priorities are announcements of and reports on tournaments, listing of clubs, the junior chess section, ACA news, etc.)

"What do you think of the job the ACA is doing in promoting Chess?" E-2, G-9, A-13, F-7, P-1.

"How do you rate the ACA Overall?" E-4, G-20, A-6, F-3, P-1.

The overall ACA rating was above average, though the promotion aspect was not quite as good. The simplest (!) way I can suggest for improvement to be made is to have more volunteers to help the ACA to get more things done and do a better job with current projects and ongoing functions!! There are far too few with too much to do, and those few hold the ACA together from year to year — "burn out" is a constant threat. If you have a complaint or suggestion, perhaps you're the one to volunteer to take action to resolve the situation? *The ACA needs more people willing to take an active part in its affairs — if you (or someone you can convince) want to make a difference, run for a position on the Board (if you are elected, take the initiative to get some things done), and/or offer to help with some projects.*

'92 Grande Prairie CC Championship (information supplied by Phil Lefkowitz)

The tournament began by dividing the players up into 3 round robins. Phil Lefkowitz scored 4-0 in Group A and Cliff Turner 3-0 in Group B — they were given a bye past the first round of the subsequent playoffs. Joe Kish and Jim Roy tied for first in Group C, with 2-1 scores, and were joined in the playoffs by the 2nd place players in the other two groups, Gary Ockert (3-1 in A) and Gerry Scherer (2-1 in B).

In the single-knockout first playoff round, Jim Roy defeated Gerry Scherer and Joe Kish defeated Gary Ockert. In the next round, Jim Roy and Phil Lefkowitz drew their first game, so played another, which Jim won. Meanwhile, Cliff Turner took his game with Joe Kish.

This set up the final playoff match, which would go to the first player to win two games. Jim Roy did just that, 2-0. So, as Phil wrote in his report: "15 year old Jim Roy of Sexsmith, Alberta, was sensational, going 6-1-1 to wrest the Club Championship from the hands of the old guard, Phil Lefkowitz and Cliff Turner. Congrats."

Qualifying for the 1993 Alberta Closed — full rules available from the ACA —

Participants must have at least 2 participation points since the previous Closed. Qualifying events are worth 1 pt; all other rated Alberta events 1/2 pt. (TD's get up to 1 participation point through directing.)

All wishing to participate (qualifiers or by rating) must register in writing. The written registration must be received by the ACA by March 10. It's the potential entrant's responsibility to submit a registration - the ACA need not issue invitations.

Eight participants. Round robin Easter weekend. Site TBA. EF \$20 (all to prize fund; *qualifying tournaments contribute \$1 per entry toward prizes*; minimum of \$250: 1st-50%, 2nd-30%, 3rd-20%).

Each candidate must have been an Alberta resident at least 6 months in the year before the Closed.

Candidates qualify by their earliest eligible qualification opportunity. Check rules for tiebreaking.

If player(s) still needed (*no* automatic entrants by rating!), the highest rated registrant(s) in the latest CFC rating list prior to March 10, will be accepted (but must have completed at least 1 qualifying event).

Qualifying events for the '93 Alta Closed
'92 Alta Closed; Alta Open; Alta Jr Closed; S. Alta Open; Edmonton Closed; Calgary Closed; N. Alta Open; "Rural Candidate".

NICBASE or ChessBase Users

Ken MacDonald would like to exchange games on a 5 for 1 basis with an ACR reader. He wants annual game files from the ACR as far back as 1980 (he didn't so specify, but may be interested in other exchanges as well). Ken has many non-commercially

available, high-quality files for exchange. He will deal only with the first person who offers the ACR games, so don't do any inputting without first writing him.

J. Ken MacDonald
37 Bemersyde Dr.
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9A 2S9



ALBERTA JUNIOR CHESS REPORT

(A special section of the Alberta Chess Report, August 1992)



1992 Canadian Cadet Report

by Sherwin Chan

Canadian Chess Challenge Nationals

May 17-18, 1992

by Phylliss Flower

The 1992 Canadian Cadet was held over Spring Break in Winnipeg. My roommate, Andy Ito from Vancouver, managed to pack earmuffs, a heavy winter coat, gloves and boots, based on myths told to him in B.C. (or so he said). The playing site was the basement of the Cornish library.

As expected, Eduardo (Eddy) Teodoro IV rebounded from his fourth place finish last year, to completely annihilate (okay, maybe not quite) the rest of the field, finishing two and a half points ahead of the field. Uma Casinathan finished second with a score of 6.5/9. Olivier Mirabeau played consistent enough to finish third with 6/9. Erin Walker, a 9-year old girl, was Manitoba's rep and played well in her first nationwide tournament (she nearly upset Adam Wu).

I was terribly inconsistent during my first Cadet and finished seventh with 3.5/9. It seemed that everyday, except the first day, I would play an adequate game and then experiment to see how fast I could lose in the second game. In this tournament there was an upset almost every round. I like to think that I caused the biggest upset, ousting Adam in the second round. Neil Collins managed a large one too by using his pet opening and drawing Uma after 32 moves. Mirabeau was almost the spoilsport of Eddy's tournament. In their game Eddy played well but still found himself in a losing position by move 36, but Olivier missed the correct variation with Eddy in time trouble!

In the first day I managed to tie for the lead (though I never maintained it) by butchering Erin Walker's queen and then slicing her king down. I also defeated fellow Albertan Adam Wu [I would have rather beat (loud-mouth) Uma, but I have no complaints]. The 3rd round was the turning point in my opening, getting a cramped position, dropping a few pieces and also a queen for good measure, and then self-destructing in 17 moves. In round 4, I drew with my roommate, Andy Ito, after he missed several chances to win. On every day after this I would manage to draw and lose a game. In round 5 I played adequately enough to draw Nathan Steingart from Saskatchewan. In round 6, I misplayed the Ruy Lopez Marshall, and got blown off the board by Brian Lee. In round 7 I swindled a draw from Neil Collins. In rounds 8 and 9 I was quickly beaten by the two highest rated players.

I would like to thank the ACA for providing the airfare for this trip and obliging me to write this article (hey, it's not a bad price for airfare!). I would also like to thank a few people in Winnipeg: Cecil Rosner for doing a good job organizing; Carl Grant for directing this well-run tournament and having us pay \$5 for pizza when the total order added up to \$30; and the Zaidman's for providing me a place to rest at night and delicious breakfasts and dinners.

Now, here is my second round game against Adam, and so you can see how badly I played at times, I've included my game with Olivier.

Sherwin Chan - Adam Wu

1.e4 c5 2.c3 *I didn't want to face the Dragon, so I tried the Kopec variation for the second time in my career.* 2...d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.Bc2 e5 6.O-O Be7 7.d3 O-O 8.Be3 d5 9.d4? *9.Nbd2 dxe4 10.dxe4 is fine for White.* 9... cxd4 10.cxd4 exd4 11.Nxd4 dxe4 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Nc3 Ba6 14.Re1 Bd3 15.Qd2 Qd6?? *Adam should have played 15... Bxc2, followed by Qd3.* 16.Bf4 Qb4 17.Bxd3 Rfd8 18.a3 Qa5 19.b4 Qf5 20.Nxe4 Rxd3 21.Qxd3 Qxf4 *Instead of being a piece down, Adam is down the exchange.* 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Re4 Qc7 24.Rae1 g6 25.Re8+ Rxe8 26.Rxe8+ Kg7 27.Re1 a5 28.Rd1 axb4 29.axb4 Be5 30.g3 Qb6 31.Qc4 Qc7 32.b5 32.Rc1 *wins quicker.* 32... cxb5 33.Qxc7 Bxc7 *With the queens off this should be an easy win for White.* 34.Rb1 h5 35.Rxb5 Bd8 36.Kg2 Bf6 37.h3 Ba1 38.f4 Bc3 39.g4 hxg4 40.hxg4 Bd2 41.Kf3 Bc3 42.Ke4 Ba1 43.f5 Bf6 44.fxg6 Kxg6 45.Kf4 Bc3 46.Rb6+ f6 47.Rb5 Bd2+ 48.Kf3 43.Ke4, *followed by Rf5 and Kd5, wins easily.* 48... Bg5 49.Ke4 Bd2 50.Rf5 Bb4 51.Kf4 Bd6+ 52.Kf3 Ba3 53.Ra5 Bb2 54.Rb5 Be5 55.Kg2 Kh6 56.Kh3 Kg5 57.Rd5 Kf4? *This makes my job easier.* 58.Kh4 f5? *The final mistake.* 59.g5 Ke4 60.Rd7 Bc3 61.g6 Bf6+ 62.Kg3 f4+ 63.Kf2 Bh4+ 64.Kf1 Bf6 65.g7 (1-0).

Sherwin Chan - Olivier Mirabeau

(Sicilian Dragon, "Stupid Variation")

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.d3 e6 6.Be3 b6 7.Qd2 Nge7 8.Bb3 d5 9.exd5 exd5 10.Bf4 a6 11.O-O Bg4 12.Ne1 Nd4 13.h3 Be6 14.Rb1 c4 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.dxc4 Nxf4 17.c3 Nde2+ (0-1).

The Canadian Chess Challenge National Tournament started off with a bang (literally) this year in Montreal as it coincided with the opening celebration of Montreal's 350th birthday. While our Alberta team and other provincial teams were attempting to sleep in preparation for the next day's events, just blocks away thousand of spectators lined the streets of the parade route, culminating with fireworks until 2:00 am. The sounds of sirens and traffic resulted in little sleep for many players.

Despite these adverse conditions, the participants were all enthusiastically up early to ready themselves for the day. The teams looked great, each wearing Provincial team shirts and many teams also adorned their tournament tables with Provincial flags. Our team shirts were obtained through the efforts of Ford Wong on behalf of the ACA and the Government of Alberta RPW Foundation grant. The kids maintained a good sense of sportsmanship, demonstrated through supportive behavior among teammates and opponents alike. They all enjoyed trading Provincial pins with those from other provinces, as well. There was an enthusiastic crowd of families, friends and other onlookers, as well as coverage from CBC that appeared on national TV.

This tournament was a scholastic event, with each child playing against those in the same grade. It was played in a round robin format, with individual Provincial teams (grades 1-12) playing against each of their counterparts from the 9 other provinces. If necessary, there were tiebreaking playoffs to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Grades 8-12 used clocks with 30 minute time controls. Grades 5 and 6 were put on clocks with 10 minute time controls if games were still in progress after 45 minutes.

I am proud to say that Alberta came away with 3 trophies this year. Gerard O'Reilly (Midnapore/Calgary), grade 1, was undefeated (9-0) and took 1st place. Nathan McLean (Rimbey), grade 4, and Adam Wu (Edmonton), grade 10, each won 3rd place. [Paul Kirvan (Morinville) came very close to a trophy, tying in Grade 2 with the New Brunswick representative at 7 points out of 9, but getting 4th after a tiebreak playoff. The other Alberta team members (see p. 9 of the May ACR) acquitted themselves well,

and can be proud of their efforts! - ed.) While each child accumulated points for his/her own games, total team points determined the standing of the Provincial teams. Again this year, Alberta (61 points) came in 4th place as a team, behind Quebec (88 points; *winning for the fourth year in a row - ed.*), B.C. (79) and Ontario (76.5).

This is the third year the Chess 'n Math Association (Échecs et Maths), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promotion of chess in Canadian schools, has been responsible for National coordination of the Canadian Chess Challenge. This event is also sanctioned by the Chess Federation of Canada, which provided some financial support this year. The Chess 'n Math Association, located in Montreal, is encouraging other provinces to hold this tournament in the future. So with their encouragement and support along with the support of Ford Wong and the ACA, Alberta is proceeding with plans to host the Nationals in May of 1993. These plans are in their infancy at the moment but the Alberta chess community will be kept informed of the progress (*the site will be the Lister Hall residence complex at the U of A - ed.*).

Calgary School Team Championships by Ian Drummond

The Senior High Team Championship was held April 22nd, concurrently with the Jr High team competition. Four teams contested, 3 from Lester B. Pearson and one from Bishop Grandin. The Bishop Grandin team scored steadily, making 9.5 out of 12 to win by half a point over Lester B. Pearson "A". Congratulations to Jason Scammell, Peter Tozser, Dave Bedard and Calvin Tong on their victory.

The Junior High Team Championship featured a battle between 5 teams from 2 schools. Annie Gale fielded 2 teams, placing 1st and 4th, while A.E. Cross's 3 teams took 2nd, 3rd, and 5th. Congratulations to the Annie Gale "A" team of Alex Chau, Melvin Dion, Nathan Vedoya, and Allan Stanford.

The Elementary School Team Championship had 6 teams, the smallest number in my memory. This was at least partly due to the date change. Victoria Day came a week early this year on the May 16th weekend, the day originally scheduled for the tournament. Messages were sent through both School Board's electronic mail systems on a change to May 9th and we ended up with 6 teams from 3 schools. Hugh Sutherland entered 3 teams, Prince of Wales 2, and Falcon Ridge 1. Hugh Sutherland team "A" scored 17.5 out of 20 to take first place. Congratulations to Mark Bessey, Josh Thompson, Mattieu Fournier, and Sony Fernandez.

EJCC May Mayhem

by Rob Gardner (TD: Nancy Emack)

Valentine Pul created havoc by beating all his opponents to take clear first in this round robin. Paul Kirvan contributed to the disorder with his second place showing.

EJCC Mercury Active

by Rob Gardner, TD, M.Ch.

If the other players could be thought of as the planet Mercury, then Beatrice Wu was the sun as she burnt everyone who faced her. Cynthia Wu, Douglas Wu, and Rob Curtis tied for second at 3/5. Rob's chances for the second prize flowed away like quicksilver in the speed chess playoff, so Cynthia and Doug shared the second place book prize.

"Bernie Batchelor Burns Computer"

I usually get thumped soundly by my computer's highest setting (rated 2150 USCF). Through a sound kingside attack, I finally beat it. The attack is quite attractive.

B. Batchelor - Kasparov Chess Champion
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 e5 6.d5 O-O 7.Be3 Ne8 8.g4 *Dangerous looking, but Black's threats are easily buffeted.* 8.g4 counters ...f5. 8... Qh4+ 9.Bf2 Qf6 10.Qd2 *Occupying the c1-h6 diagonal against ...Bh6.* 10... h6 11.h4 Qe7 12.Bd3 f5!? 13.gxf5 gxf5 14.Nh3 fxe5 15.fxe5 Kh7 *Avoiding a future pin on its B.* 16.O-O a6 17.Be3 *Making room and setting a cheap trap.* 17... Bg4 If 17... Qxh4 then 18.Ng5+, *butchering Black's queen.* 18.Rdg1 Bf3 19.Rh2 Nf6 *Threatening to win the exchange by 20... Ng4.* 20.Be2! *The other option, 20.Nf2, leaves White cramped.* 20... Bxe2 Not 20... Ng4 as 21.Rxg4 Bxg4 22.Bxg4 *with two decisive outposts at f5 and e6.* 21.Qxe2 Rg8 *Anticipating its weakness.* 22.Ng5+! Kh8 If 22... hxg5 23.hxg5+ Kg6 24.gxf6 Kf7 (24... Kxf6 25.Qf3 mate) 25.fxe7 *winning.* 23.Ne6 Kh7 24.Rhg2 Ne8 25.Rg4 *This defensive move also has a hidden tactical edge which will be clear soon.* 25... Nd7 26.Qh2 *Still not clear? Just wait...* 26... Nb6 *The computer, locked on the king side, fights for counterplay on the queen side. It is all for naught.* 27.Bg5! hxg5 *When the danger isn't clear to the computer, it will always accept a sacrifice.* 28.hxg5+ Kg6 *And what now?! 29.Rh1! Rh8 Forced.* 30.Rh4! *Move 25 is now clear. Of course I didn't calculate this, but saw the pattern. This move threatens 31.Rxh8 Bxh8 32.Qh6+ Kf7 33.g6+ and mate next move.* 30... Rxh4 31.Qxh4 Kf7 32.g6+! Kxg6 *The only move.* 33.Qh5+ Kf6 34.Qf5 mate (1-0). *A lively game.*

There Goes Rob Gardner...

Rumor has it that the Rocket can no longer continue as the "prime mover" in Edmonton junior chess (he might actually be seeking employment - yoiks!). This isn't good news for Edmonton's junior players, and is bad for the ACR Editor, who may lose a (the!) major contributor, not to mention someone with whom to exchange "digs". "News from the ACA" (p. 3) has a brief tribute to Rob from Ford Wong, ACA President, and Ford's request that some concerned chess player(s) volunteer to help with the Edmonton Junior Chess Club — *please assist if you can* — it need not take a lot of your time, especially if a few people are involved, but can be of *great benefit to the kids*. Help is needed *soon!*

...and There Goes Ian Drummond

As stated in earlier ACR's (particularly the cover of the February issue), Ian is unable to continue as the Calgary Junior Chess Club organizer. Many thanks to Ian for his efforts in the past years on behalf of Calgary's junior players, and for his contributions to the ACR! To echo what was said above under "There Goes Rob Gardner...": the ACA asks that some concerned chess player(s) volunteer to help with the Calgary Junior Chess Club — *please assist if you can* — it need not take a lot of your time, especially if a few people are involved, but can be of *great benefit to the kids*. Help is needed *soon!*

Calgary Junior Chess Club and Edmonton Junior Chess Club

As you can tell from the two notices above, there's some uncertainty with the 1992-93 plans for these clubs! It's anticipated that activities will continue to be on "selected Saturdays", but it's not known if the meeting sites will be the same (CJCC was Hounsfield Hts./Briar Hill Community Hall. 1928-14 Ave N; EJCC was Edmonton Room, Main Library downtown, south of Churchill Square). The clubs had different low entry fees and tournament formats, but each awarded prizes, such as books and trophies. Chess equipment was supplied. The CJCC required ACA membership, while the EJCC required combined CFC+ACA membership for tournament participants. For full details of the past format, see any recent ACR issue. If you wish "the latest" information, please write to the ACA (address on page 2).

Leduc Junior Chess Club
Info: August Hangartner (986-0459).

**1992-93 9th Annual
Alta-B.C. Peace River Grand Prix**

Sept 12 Grande Prairie vs Dawson Creek Team Match. Grande Prairie. Contact: Jim Roy (403)-568-3961.

Sept 26-27 Golden Harvest Open. Dawson Creek. Contact: Forrest Nelson (604)-782-1119.

Oct 24 Ft. St. John Fall Active. Ft. St. John. Contact: Larry Stutzman (604)-785-7830.

Nov 28 Dawson Creek Fall Active. Dawson Creek. Contact: Grant MacTavish (604)-782-7349.

Jan 16-17 Trumpeter Classic. Grande Prairie. Contact: Phil Lefkowitz (403)-538-1903.

Feb 20-21 Mukluk Open. Ft. St. John. Contact: Larry Stutzman (604)-785-7830.

Mar 6 Dawson Creek vs Ft. St. John Team Match. Dawson Creek. Contact: Gordon MacDonald (604)-782-4264.

Mar 27 Swan City Active. Grande Prairie. Contact: Jim Roy (403)-568-3961.

Apr 24 Ft. St. John vs Grande Prairie Team Match. Ft. St. John. Contact: Larry Stutzman (604)-785-7830.

Underlined events in the Grand Prix (4-rd; active or regular rated). To qualify for GP pts (sum of 4 best scores), *must play in at least 4 GP events*. Based on \$1.50 fee/entrant/event: 1st overall & 1st under 1700, each 30% of prize fund; 2nd overall & 2nd under 1700, each 20% (using *regular* ratings as of Aug/92 *En Passant*). No player may win more than one prize.

*** Weekend Tournaments in Calgary ***

The following details apply to all of the tournaments listed below:

Site: Room 129, Building Science A University of Calgary
5 round Swiss (3 Saturday, 2 Sunday)
Time Control: 40/1:50 15/0:30
Entry Fees: \$20 senior \$15 junior (CFC/ACA membership required)
Register: 9:00-9:30 a.m. Saturday.
 Round 1 at 9:30 a.m.
 No smoking No computers
TD: Jim Van Wyck (265-0098).
 (all gamescores must be provided to TD)
Sponsored by the ACA

**Alberta 1800-and-Over
and
Alberta Under-1800
September 19 - 20**

**Southern Alberta Open
November**
 TD and dates to be announced
 — **not** Grey Cup weekend!
 (a qualifier for the 1993 Alberta Closed)

**Calgary January Open
January 16 - 17, 1993**

1992 ALBERTA OPEN

October 10-12 Red Deer

Capri Convention Centre, 3310 - 50 Ave
 Swiss System, 6 rounds (2 each day)
 Time Control: 40/120 (2nd TC TBA)
Register: 9:00-10:00 a.m. Saturday

Entry Fees	In Advance	At Site
Senior (18 & over)	\$20	\$25
Junior (17 & under)	\$15	\$20

**Advance Entry Form
enclosed with this ACR!**

- inexpensive accommodation close by •
 - no smoking • • no computers •
 - a qualifier for the 1993 Alberta Closed •
- TD: Neil Sharp (346-0420)
 Sponsors: ACA, Red Deer Chess Club

Alberta's most important regular open tournament — *plan now to join us in Red Deer*. The ACA Annual General Meeting will be held October 11 between rounds 3 and 4.

**Here's your chance to play in
Alberta's "class" championship!**
 (just a few weeks from now in Calgary)

Mikhail Tal's Last Sacrifice

Sadly, one of the most exciting grandmasters of all time, Mikhail Tal, died on June 28 at the age of 55. Ultimately he succumbed to chronic kidney disease.

Tal took his first title, the 1953 Latvian Championship, at the age of 16, but really rocketed to the top by capturing the 1957 USSR Championship. He won the 1958 Interzonal and 1959 Candidates tournaments, then trounced Botvinnik 12.5-8.5, thus becoming World Champion. The seriousness of his illness was first apparent just before the return match with Botvinnik in 1961. His courage was apparent when he declined to seek a postponement and lost the match. The next year he entered hospital before completion of the Curacao candidate's tournament, and thereafter did not again reach the pinnacle to challenge for the world title.

Despite poor health, throughout his career Tal made life decidedly unhealthy for his opponents! He fearlessly essayed risky combinations, with risky moves — or so they seemed at first — but under his penetrating stare opponent after opponent soon saw where the risk truly was as they fell to his complex attacks. Tal truly was the Grandmaster of Combinations, and few could analyze as deeply as he did. He was famous for his queen sacrifices, rapid fire play (winning the World Blitz Championship in 1988), and flashy intuitive moves.

Mikhail Tal was an extremely popular GM, with a witty streak and, despite poor health, a charismatic energy, lack of ego and love of chess which endeared him to all. "Misha" will be missed!

Bobby's Back!

Bobby Fischer, that is, according to Jon Berry's August 1st Globe and Mail column, and an article by Martin Walker of The Guardian (Edmonton Journal, August 16). After Fischer's 20-year self-imposed exile from the world of chess, if not almost from the world as a whole, another Fischer-Spassky match, this time only 9 games, has been scheduled. The purse is to be \$5,000,000 (the reports don't say how it'll be distributed), and the match is to start September 2nd at a resort some 65 km south of Belgrade, and finish in Belgrade — a cool \$555,555.55' dished out per game if the match goes the distance!

Every player is familiar with Fischer's chess exploits and with his games. Many still consider him the greatest Grandmaster of all time — he certainly was the greatest when he brought his career to such an abrupt end. He may not have played publicly for two decades, and Spassky may be rated just out of the top 100 in the world, but this has to be the biggest chess event, because of the presence of Fischer, in a long time. (Still, I'll really believe in the match when I read that it has been completed, given that Fischer is involved!) Serbia is a strange site, what with the turmoil in the former Yugoslavia, but that's where the moneybags backer is.

The Journal article contained a myriad of facts and speculations about Fischer, particularly about his psychological quirks and paranoia, and made *very interesting* reading (e.g. he is said to now weigh around 240 pounds — that's more than the ACR editor!). If you can get a copy, do so!