

# Alberta Chess Report



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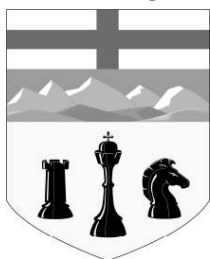
Team North: too much for South to handle at the 2015 Battle of AB



GM Pentala Harikrishna wins  
10th Edmonton International



IM Richard Wang is the 2015  
Alberta Closed Champion



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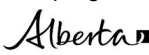
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## IM Richard Wang becomes a two-time AB Closed champion

The 2015 Alberta Closed Championship took place at the Calgary Chess Club on April 3-5. The event featured most of the top players in the province contesting the title in a round-robin tournament.

The defending champion FM Alex Yam (2285 FIDE) was only the third seed after two rating favorites IM Edward Porper (2431 FIDE) and IM Richard Wang (2368 FIDE). Edward won the 2014 Alberta Open, while Richard qualified by rating. The winner of the 2014 Southern Alberta Open Gary Ng (2200 FIDE) participated in the provincial championship for a second year in a row. CM Rafael Arruebarrena from Venezuela (2250 FIDE) made his first appearance at the AB Closed. Rafael currently resides in Edmonton and qualified by winning the 2015 Northern Alberta Open in a crushing style. The player roster was completed by Daniel Kazmaier (2216 FIDE) who qualified by rating.

### Round 1: Friday, April 3

FM Alex Yam 0:1 CM Rafael Arruebarrena



Rafael's best game of the tournament and a cold shower for the defending champion. White neglected his development for too long and got punished by 19...♗e3!

**Yam, Alex (2367) – Arruebarrena, Rafael (2334) [B22]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (1), 03.04.2015

1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘f3 e6 6.cxd4 d6 7.♗c4 ♘c6 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.♖e2 0-0 10.♖e4 A tabiya of the system. Black has tried no fewer than 15 different moves here.

10...♖a5 In this game Black opts for a very rare continuation. More popular is 10...♖c7 or 10...♗d7.



AB Closed and Reserves Championship: playing hall during round 4

11.♗bd2 dxe5 Black releases the tension in the center a little early.

11...♗d7 has been preferred so far.

12.dxe5 ♗d8 13.a3 Here and later White has a chance to play 13.♗b3!? and then complete his development with a good position. 13...b5 14.♗d3 g6 15.h4 ♗b7 16.h5 ♖b6

The computer likes 16...♖a4!? with an almost inevitable exchange of queens. 17.hxg6? White must not rush this capture. Instead, after 17.♗b1 ♖ac8 the position is approximately equal.

17...hxg6 18.♗b1 ♔g7! White has done all the hard work opening up the h-file. Black says "thank you very much" and then uses the file to his advantage. 19.♖g4 Clearing up the e4-square for the knight but there is no time for that.

19.♗b3 is also insufficient as Black can simply play 19...♖h8 with an idea to double the rooks on the h-file.

19...♗e3! This tactical blow is spectacular and fully sound. Nevertheless, the "boring" 19...♖h8!? also deserves attention. 20.♖f4 The lesser evil.

20.fxex3 ♖xe3+ 21.♖f2 is not a bad practical chance but after 21...♗c5 22.♖h4 ♗xe5 23.♗xe5 ♖xe5 24.♗f1 ♔g8! 25.♗c2 ♖ac8 black attains an overwhelming position.

20...♗xf1 21.♗c4 Another nice try but Black finds a refutation. Alternatively, if 21.♗xf1 ♖h8 22.♗e3 ♖d8, then Black is up an exchange for not very much.

21...♗d1! Crushing. Wrong would be 21...bxc4? 22.♖h6+ ♔g8 23.♗xg6 fxg6 24.♖xg6+ with a perpetual check.

22.♖h6+ No better is 22.♗xb6 ♖h8 23.♗c2 ♗g3+ 24.♗xd1 ♖h1#

22...♔g8 23.♗xb6 ♗e3+ 0-1

A possible conclusion is 24.♗h2 ♗g4+ 25.♔g3 ♗xh6 26.♗xa8 ♖xc1 with at least a piece more for Black.



IM Edward Porper 1:0 Gary Ng

Black sacrificed a pawn in the opening following a trodden path. The outcome of the battle was decided shortly after Edward's novelty 15. ♖c1. Gary needed to play precisely to prove compensation; failure to do so allowed White to consolidate and win smoothly.





**Porper, Edward (2492) – Ng, Gary (2320) [D15]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (1), 03.04.2015

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 5.e3 ♗f5 6.♗b3 b5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.a4 b4 9.♗xb4 ♘c6 10.♗c5 ♘a5 11.♗a3 e6 12.b4 ♘c6 13.♘a2 ♗b8 14.♗d2 ♘e4



### 15.♗c1!?

15.♗c1 was played in the game Chiburdanidze–Gustafsson, 2003, and after 15...♗b7 16.a5 ♘xd2 17.♙xd2 ♘xb4 18.♗a4+ ♗d7 19.♗xd7+ ♙xd7 20.♘e5+ ♘e8 Black restored material equality with a comfortable position.

**15...♗b6!** Correct. White's idea is revealed after 15...♘b4? 16.♘b4 ♗xb4 17.♗b5+! axb5 18.♗c6+! ♙d8 19.♗xb4 with a large advantage.

**16.b5 ♘xd2** A human choice. The computer promises Black full compensation after 16...♘a5!? but the consequences of this move are hard to calculate. **17.♘xd2 ♘a7?**

Now 17...♘a5 is no good in view of a simple 18.bxa6. Black's best is impossible to find: 17...♗c8!! 18.a5 ♗b7 19.bxc6 ♗xc6 20.♗d1 ♗c2 with equality according to the computer.

**18.♗b2?** Edward gives his opponent another chance to equalize. Instead,

White should immediately clarify the situation by means of 18.a5! ♗xa5 19.♘c3 ♗c7 20.♗xa6 maintaining a healthy extra pawn.

**18...axb5?** Natural but insufficient.

18...♗c8!! is again Black's best although it's impossible to figure out why. White should now try something like 19.♘b4, since 19.a5?! allows Black too much activity after 19...♗xa5 20.bxa6 ♗d6 21.♘c1 ♗c2!

**19.axb5 ♗e7 20.♘c3** Now White consolidates and maintains his strong passed pawn. The rest of the game needs no comments. **20...0-0 21.♗e2 ♘c6 22.0-0 ♘b4 23.♘a4 ♗d6 24.♘c5 ♘c2 25.♗ac1 ♘a3 26.♗c3 ♘c4 27.♗xc4 dxc4 28.♘xc4 ♗d8 29.b6 ♗b8 30.♗b5 ♗d5 31.♘e5 ♗d6 32.♘ed7 ♗e4 33.f3 ♗h5 34.h3 ♗f5 35.♘e4 1-0**

Daniel Kazmaier 0:1 IM Richard Wang



Another early pawn sacrifice by Black. Richard's active pieces gave him compensation in the endgame but White wasn't in any real danger. Unfortunately, Dan lost the thread of the game around the time control, and Richard's fast passed pawn turned out to be the most important factor.

**Kazmaier, Daniel (2312) – Wang, Richard (2401) [D23]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (1), 03.04.2015

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♗b3 dxc4 5.♗xc4 ♗g4 6.♘c3 ♘bd7 7.e4 e5 This move was Magnus Carlsen's choice at the 2014 Olympiad. 7...♗xf3 8.gxf3 e5 9.♗e3 was an earlier game between the same opponents that Dan won. 8.♘xe5 ♘xe5 9.dxe5 ♗e6 10.♗d3 ♘g4 11.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 12.f4

The aforementioned game Nyback–Carlsen, 2014, continued 12.♗f4 ♗c5 13.♗g3 ♗d4 14.♗d1 ♗xe5 and ended in a draw. **12...♗c5** Black has full compensation for the pawn. **13.♗e2**

♘e3 14.♗xe3 ♗xe3 15.g3 h5 16.h4 ♙e7 17.♗f1 ♗h3 18.♗f3?! White is trying to solve his development problems by simple means but it doesn't quite work.



**18...♗d2+ 19.♙f2 ♗g4 20.♗d3 ♗xd3 21.♗xd3 ♗d8 22.♗f1 ♗xc3?! Black** parts with the bishop pair too early.

**22...♗d4!?** maintains the pressure and promises Black a better position. White will not be able to hold on to his extra pawn for long. **23.bxc3 ♗d2+ 24.♙e3 ♗c2 25.c4** Again, Black has full compensation for the missing pawn but no more than that. **25...g6** More forceful is 25...♗c3+!? 26.♗d3 ♗a3 For example, 27.♗b1 b6 28.♗b2 ♗e6 29.♙d2 ♗g4 30.♗c2 c5 31.♙e3 g6 and White cannot make any progress whatsoever.

**26.a4 ♙d7 26...♗e6!?** looks like a draw but Black may have been playing for a win. **27.a5 c5 28.♗a3 ♙c7 29.♗a1** White elects to wait.

Instead, 29.♗b3!? deserves serious attention as now Black cannot easily create a passer. In case of 29...♗a2 White sacrifices a pawn but breaks through on the kingside: 30.f5! gxf5 31.exf5 ♗xf5 32.♗e2 ♗xa5 33.♗xh5 ♗e6 34.♗f3 b6 35.♗c3 The h–pawn is very dangerous and it is White who will be playing for a win here.

**29...♙c6 30.♗a3 ♙c7 31.♗a1 a6 32.♗a3 ♗b2 33.♗a1** It was a good moment to execute the same key breakthrough: 33.f5 gxf5 34.exf5 ♗xf5 35.♗e2 Black is facing a difficult defensive task here.

**33...b6 34.axb6+ ♙xb6 35.♗a3 a5 36.♗a1 ♙a6 37.♗a3 ♗h2 38.♗d3** Again, 38.f5! is the right continuation.

**38...a4 39.♗d2 ♗h1 40.♗d3 ♙a5 41.f5?** White has finally advanced on the kingside but Black's passed pawn has become too strong in the meantime.



It was time to seek a draw: 41.♖b2! For example, 41...a3 42.♖b5+ ♔a6 43.♖b3 ♖a1 44.♕d2 a2 45.♖a3+ ♔b6 46.♕c3 ♖c1+ 47.♕b2 ♖g1 48.♖b3+ etc. 41...gxf5 42.exf5 ♖e1+ 43.♕f4 The position has suddenly become quite sharp, and every tempo is important.



43...♕b4? The winning move is 43...a3! in accordance with the principle that passed pawns must advance. For example, 44.e6 fxe6 45.f6 e5+! 46.♕g5 ♖e6 47.♖g6 ♖xc4 48.f7 ♖f1 The position still looks unclear but Black's passers are more dangerous than White's. 44.♖f2? Unfortunately, a wrong move order.

Instead, 44.e6! secures a draw: 44...f6 (44...fxe6 45.f6 is risky for Black) 45.♖e4 ♕xc4 46.e7 ♖f1+ 47.♕e3 ♖e1+ 48.♕f4 and neither side can avoid repetition.

44...a3 45.♖e4 Black wins after 45.e6 although it would be nice to see it on the board: 45...f6 46.♖e4 ♖e2! 47.e7 a2 48.e8♖ a1♖ 49.♖b5+ ♔c3 The white king is in desperate need of squares. Relatively best is 50.♖xc5 but after 50...♖c1+ 51.♖e3+ ♖xe3+ 52.♕xe3 ♖d3+ Black is up a piece.

45...♕b3 46.♖c2+ ♕xc4 47.♖e4 ♖e2 48.♖b1 ♖xb1 Black has a number of winning continuations here including 48...♕b4 49.♖a2 c4.

The rest of the game goes smoothly for Black. 49. ♖xe2 ♖b8 50.♕e4 ♕b3 51.♖e3+ ♕b4 52.♕d5 ♖d8+ 53.♕c6 a2 54.♖e1 ♖a8 55.♖a1 c4 56.e6 fxe6 57.fxe6 ♕b3 58.♕c5 c3 0-1

## Round 2: Saturday, April 4

Rafael Arruebarrena ½:½ IM Richard Wang

White obtained a pleasant position out of the opening but could not convert it in



anything tangible. Richard's stubborn defence was rewarded by Rafael's blunder 37. ♖f6? giving Black an extra exchange. After the time control it looked like Richard was winning but he was unable to demonstrate it over the board.

## Arruebarrena, Rafael (2334) – Wang, Richard (2401) [B36]

2015 Alberta Closed (2), 04.04.2015

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖c6 5.c4 ♖f6 6.♖c3 ♖xd4 7.♖xd4 d6 8.♖e3 ♖g7 9.♖e2 0-0 10.♖d2 ♖d7 11.f3 a5 12.b3 ♖c6 13.♖b1 ♖d7 14.0-0 ♖c8 A novelty. Black usually leaves his queen's rook on a8 anticipating future queenside operations.

The most popular move is 14...♖c5. 15.♖fd1 f5?! This works in White's favor. 15...♖c5 is still the right continuation. 16.exf5 ♖xf5 17.♖d3 ♖f8 18.♖e4 This natural attempt to increase control of the light squares gives Black an opportunity to change the structure. White has a lot of useful moves at his disposal, e.g., 18.♖bc1!?

18...♖xc3! 19.♖xc3 ♖xe4 20.fxe4! ♖c7 21.♖d4 ♖f6 22.h3 ♖fd8 23.♖b6 23.♖f1!? deserves attention intending ♖g5 next.

23...♖d7? This works in White's favor. Best is 23...♖e8! sacrificing the a5-pawn temporarily. Then 24.♖xc7 ♖xc7 25.♖b6 leads nowhere: after 25...♖c6 26.♖xa5 ♖a6 27.♖b4 ♖xa2 Black recovers his pawn with equality.

24.♖xc7 ♖xc7 25.e5! Black must have missed this resource. 25...♖c6 A sad necessity as either capture on e5 loses an exchange to ♖b6. 26.exd6 exd6 26...♖xd6 is worse: 27.♖f4 ♖xd1+ 28.♖xd1 ♕f7 29.♖c7 ♖c8 30.♖xa5 and White's advantage is decisive.

27.♖d5 b6 28.♖bd1 ♖c5 29.♖f4 ♖b7 Instead of passively defending Black can try 29...a4!? intending to exchange a few pawns. A sample line is 30.♖xd6

axb3 31.♖xc5 ♖xd5 32.cxd5 ♖xc5 33.d6 ♖c8 34.axb3 ♖d8 35.d7 ♕f7 36.♖d6 ♕e7 37.♖xb6 ♖xd7 with chances to hold.

30.♖e1 ♕f7 31.♖d2 ♖e8 32.♖f1 ♕g7 White has a pleasant position but just one weakness (d6) is not enough to win. Some kingside action is required to create a second weakness. Unfortunately, Rafael loses the thread of the game at this point and blunders before the time control.

33.♖g5 ♖c5 34.♖df2 ♖c7 35.♖f6+ ♕g8 36.♖d4 ♖ce7 37.♖f6? ♖e4! Black wins an exchange obtaining what looks like a decisive advantage.



38.♖f4 ♖g3 39.♖xb6 ♖e2+ 40.♕h2 ♖xf4 41.♖xf4 ♖e2 42.♖xa5 ♖xa2 43.♖b4 ♖ee2 44.♖g4 ♖a6 45.♖d4 ♖aa2 46.♖g4 It turns out that things are not so simple for Black as he cannot keep the d6-pawn. Only a detailed analysis can show whether Black can actually win this position. 46...♖ab2 47.♖g3 ♖e6 48.♖d3 ♖ee2 49.♖g3 ♖b1 50.♖xd6 ♖eb2 51.c5 ♖xb3 52.♖xb3 ♖xb3 53.c6 ♖c3 54.c7 ♕f7 55.♕g1 ♕e6 56.♖h2 ♖c2 57.♕f1 ♖d5

The computer suggests 57...g5 but how can Black make real progress?

58.♕e1 ♕e4 59.♕d1 ♕d3 60.h4 h6 61.♖g3 ♖c6 62.♖f4 ♖c4 63.g3 Material is about to be exhausted soon.

63...♖c6 64.♕e1 ♕e4 65.♕e2 ♖c4 66.♕d2 g5 67.hxg5 hxg5 68.♖xg5 ♖xc7 ½-½

Gary Ng 1:0 Daniel Kazmaier

Gary's trademark opening 1. b4 netted him another convincing win. Daniel may have been too eager to punish his opponent quickly as he played overly aggressively. White's queen got trapped early in the



game but White obtained plenty of material in exchange of his strongest piece. The rest was a good example of three minor pieces dominating the queen.

**Ng, Gary (2320) – Kazmaier, Daniel (2312) [A00]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (2), 04.04.2015

1.b4 e5 2.♟b2 ♟xb4 3.♟xe5 ♟f6 4.c4 0-0 5.♟f3 d5 6.e3 ♟e8 7.♟b2 ♟f5 8.♟b3 ♟c6 9.♟e2

The greedy 9.a3 ♟f8 10.♟xb7? is punished by 10...♟a5 11.♟a6 ♟b3.

9...♟e4 A novelty involving a pawn sacrifice. However, the complications favor White. Instead, 9...a5!? 10.a3 a4 11.♟d1 ♟d6 with normal play.

10.cxd5 White correctly picks up the gauntlet. 10...♟c5 11.♟c4 ♟e4?

Immediate 11...b5! is best. A sample line is 12.♟xb5 ♟xd5 13.0-0 ♟ab8 14.♟c4 ♟xc4 15.♟xc4 ♟d3 16.♟xd3 ♟xd3 17.♟d4 ♟xd4 18.♟xd4 White is up a pawn but Black's active pieces give him some compensation.

12.♟d4! b5 Still the best chance.

12...♟xd4 13.♟xd4 leads nowhere.

13.♟xb5 ♟b8? The white queen is about to be trapped but the price will be too high for Black.



After relatively best 13...♟xd5 14.0-0

♟b8 15.♟c4 the e4-rook gets in the way of other black pieces.

14.♟xc6 ♟b6 Black can try to trap the opponent's queen in a different way 14...♟xd4 15.♟xd4 ♟d7 Nevertheless, White remains on top, the most precise continuation being 16.a3 ♟xc6 17.axb4 ♟xd5 18.bxc5.

15.♟xc5 ♟xc5 16.♟xc5 ♟g6 17.♟c3 White is up material and his minor pieces will soon dominate the opponent's queen. Black's desperate tries don't change much.

17...♟xg2 18.♟xa7 ♟b4 19.♟c5 ♟b8 20.a4 This passed pawn is very difficult to stop. 20...♟f6 21.♟d4 ♟g6 22.♟e5 ♟e4 23.♟f1 ♟g4 24.♟xc7 ♟a8 25.♟e5 ♟g5 26.f3 ♟h4 27.♟xe4 ♟xe4 28.fxe4 ♟f6+ 29.♟f3 ♟e8 30.♟e2 ♟xe5 31.♟xe5 ♟xe5 32.a5 ♟b8 33.a6 ♟b5+ 34.♟f2 ♟b2 35.a7 1-0

FM Alex Yam 1:0 IM Edward Porper



An instructive game. It looked like Black obtained a good position out of the opening but he needed to create pressure against the opponent's center quickly. The natural but slow 12...0-0 gave White just enough time to consolidate, then his wall of pawns simply overwhelmed Black's position.

**Yam, Alex (2367) – Porper, Edward (2492) [C29]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (2), 04.04.2015

1.e4 e5 2.♟c3 ♟f6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 ♟xe4 5.♟f3 ♟c6 6.d3 ♟xc3 7.bxc3 d4! The key move in this line that scores excellently. 8.♟b2 dxc3 9.♟xc3 ♟d5.

9...♟g4!? 10.♟e2 ♟c5 looks even more promising. Black will castle next and then take control of the important d4-square. 10.♟e2 ♟c5 11.d4 ♟b6 12.0-0 Perhaps, the critical moment of the whole game.



12...0-0? This natural move turns out to be too slow.

Bad is 12...♟xe5? that wins a pawn but leaves Black desperately behind in development. White has 13.a4! a5 14.♟xe5 ♟xe5 15.♟b5+ ♟d8 16.♟f3 with massive attack.

Correct is 12...♟e6! intending to increase the pressure on the opponent's center by castling queenside. Now after 13.♟b2 ♟xe5 14.♟xe5 ♟xe5 15.♟h1 ♟a5 White may not even have enough compensation for the pawn.

13.♟h1! There is enough time to consolidate. 13...♟g4 14.♟b2! The way is clear for the pawns. 14...♟ad8 15.c4 ♟e4 16.♟d3 ♟e3 17.♟b3 ♟h6 18.c5 ♟a5? Black's last chance to stop the pawns is 18...♟e6!

19.d5 Now White's position is simply overwhelming. 19...♟b4 20.♟c4 ♟a6 21.♟d4 ♟f4 22.♟ad1 ♟b8 23.e6 ♟c8 24.e7 ♟fe8 25.♟e5 ♟e4 26.d6 ♟h5 27.♟d3.

27.♟g5 ♟xe5 28.♟xf7+ wins quickly although it doesn't really matter.

27...♟xd3 28.♟xd3 cxd6 29.♟xd6 ♟c6 30.♟g5 ♟xe7 31.♟h3 ♟g6 32.♟xf7 The rest of the game is a massacre. 32...h5 33.♟xe7 ♟xe7 34.♟d6+ ♟h7 35.♟xc8 ♟c7 36.♟d6 ♟xc5 37.♟d3 ♟c7 38.♟xh5+ 1-0

### Round 3: Saturday, April 4

IM Edward Porper ½:½ Rafael Arruebarrena

The game was relatively uneventful until the time control. White's position looked optically better most of the time but Black did not have much to complain about. Things got more interesting after the exchange of rooks and bishops as the knight endgame seemed to be winning for White. However, Black's counterplay proved to



be sufficient for a draw as he was able to eliminate all of White's pawns.

**Porper, Edward (2492) – Arruebarrena, Rafael (2334) [D80]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (3), 04.04.2015

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.e3 ♗g7 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♘xd5 ♗xd5 7.♘e2 0-0 8.♘c3 ♗d8 9.♗e2 c6 10.0-0 e5 11.dxe5 ♗xe5 12.e4 ♗e7 13.♗c2 ♘d7 14.♗e3 ♗e8 15.♗ad1 ♗g7 16.♗d4 ♘b6 17.♗xg7 ♗xg7 18.♗d4 ♗e6 19.♗fd1 ♗g5 20.b3 20.♗d3!? is interesting as now Black cannot exchange any rooks. 20...♗ad8 21.♗d3 ♗d7 22.♗xd7 ♘xd7 23.♗d4+ ♗f6 24.f4 ♗xd4+ 25.♗xd4 ♘b6 26.♗f3 f6 27.♗f2 ♗f7 28.♗e3 ♗e7 29.h4 h6 30.♗d1 a5 31.g4 ♗f7 32.♗e2 ♗a8 33.♗b1 g5 34.h5 gxf4+ 35.♗xf4 ♗e6 36.♗c4



36...♗d8 The position has become a little tricky. Black decides to play it safe before reaching the time control but it turns out to be not so safe.

The principal line is 36...♘xc4 37.bxc4 ♗g8! 38.♗xb7+ ♘d6 when White has nothing better than 39.e5+ (39.♗h7? ♗xg4+ 40.♗f3 ♗h4 loses a pawn) 39...fxe5+ 40.♗e3 ♗xc4 41.♘e4+ ♗e6 42.♘c5+ ♘d5 43.♘e4 ♗e6 44.♘c5+ with a repetition of moves that neither side can favorably avoid.

37.♗xe6 ♗xe6 38.♗d1 ♗xd1 39.♘xd1 Suddenly, it looks like Black is in trouble because of his weak pawn on h6.

39...a4!

39...♘c8 covers the f5-square in time but White can strike from the other side: 40.♘b2 ♘d6 41.♘a4 Black's position is difficult to hold.

40.♘e3 The h6-pawn is about to fall,

and White appears to be winning.

40...c5 41.♘f5 axb3 42.axb3 c4 43.bxc4 ♘xc4 44.♘xh6 b5 Black's counterplay turns out to be sufficient for a draw. 45.♘f5 b4 46.♘d4+

Or 46.h6 ♗f7 47.h7 ♘e5 48.g5 ♘g6+ 49.♗g4 b3 50.♘d6+ ♗g7 51.gxf6+ ♗xf6 52.♘c4 ♗g7 with the same result. 46...♗f7 47.g5 fxe5+ 48.♗xg5 ♗g7

49.♘b3 ♘d6. The players agreed to a draw here since after 50.e5 ♘f7+ 51.♗f5 ♘xe5 52.♗xe5 ♗h6 Black picks up the opponent's last pawn. ½-½

**Daniel Kazmaier 0:1 FM Alex Yam**

The biggest debacle of the tournament. Things quickly got very bad for White, and he did not get a chance to recover.

**Kazmaier, Daniel (2312) – Yam, Alex (2367) [D75]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (3), 04.04.2015

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 0-0 5.♗g2 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.0-0 c5 8.dxc5 ♘a6 9.a3? The root of all White's problems as this move is too slow. 9.♘g5 is the most popular continuation that scores well. 9...♘xc5 10.♗c2 ♗b6! White is already in trouble. 11.♘fd2 ♗e6 12.e4 ♘f6 13.♘c3 ♗ac8 14.h3

After 14.b4 ♘cxe4 15.♘dxe4 ♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♗xc3 17.♗b2 ♗c4 18.♗e2 ♗fc8 White's position is simply depressing.

14...♗fd8 15.♗h2 ♗a6 16.f4 b5 17.♗b1? The last chance is 17.f5!? gxf5 18.exf5 ♘d7 19.♘f3 at least getting pieces into play. 17...♘a4 18.♘xa4 bxa4 19.e5. 19.♗e1 may slow Black down but not for long. 19...♗f5 20.♗a2 ♘e4 Black takes advantage of the fact that the f1-rook is insufficiently defended. 21.♘f3 ♗c2 22.♗e1 ♗c8



The rest of the game is an excellent illustration of a complete domination.

23.♘g1 ♘f2 24.h4 ♘g4+ 25.♗h1 ♗e6 26.♗b1 ♘f2+ 27.♗h2 ♘g4+ 28.♗h1 ♗c6 29.♘f3. 29.♗xc6 allows 29...♗h2# 29...♗d5 30.♗f1 ♗xf3 0-1

**IM Richard Wang 1:0 Gary Ng**

This could have been Gary's best game of the tournament as he played with great energy and achieved an overwhelming position against his formidable opponent. However, Richard's resilience paid off once more, and he somehow converted a lost position into a full point.

**Wang, Richard (2401) – Ng, Gary (2320) [B12]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (3), 04.04.2015

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘f3 e6 5.♘bd2 c5 6.dxc5 ♗xc5 7.♘b3 The game followed a relatively unexplored path meaning that both opponents are probably out of book at this point.

7...♗e7 This is not the right square for the bishop. Better is 7...♗b6! fighting for the d4-square and keeping e7 available for the knight. 8.♘bd4 It turns out that placing the other knight on the same square is preferable. After the text move Black should be OK.

8...♗e4 9.♗b5+ ♘d7 10.0-0 a6 11.♗e2 g5 Ambitious. Simple 11...♗c5 promises at least equality. 12.♗e3 g4 13.♘d2 ♘xe5 14.♘xe4 dxe4 15.♗xg4 ♘f6 16.♗e2 ♗c7 17.c3 0-0-0 Black may be satisfied with the outcome of the opening. His position is easier to play.

Over the course of the following few moves White cannot find a good plan and his position rapidly deteriorates. 18.h3 ♗hg8 19.♗a4 ♘d5 20.♗c2 ♘xe3 21.fxe3 ♗g5! 22.♗h1 Correct. Black's idea is revealed after 22.♗xe4?: 22...f5 23.♗b1 ♗xe3+ 24.♗h1 ♗g7 with a crushing attack.

22...♗de8 Even stronger is 22...♗g6 with the same idea of protecting the e6-pawn. 23.♗xe4 f5 24.♗c2 ♗xe3 25.♗b3? White should try to disrupt the opponent's coordination by means of 25.♗h5 Here 25...♗xd4 26.♗xe8 ♗xe8? loses material to 27.♗a4.

25...♗g7 Now Black's attack must be decisive. 26.♗g1 The only defence.

26...♗xg1 27.♗xg1 Black has an extra exchange and the initiative. 27...♗d7?

This understandable desire to consolidate allows White to stay in the game. The computer points out to a strong blow 27...♘g4! threatening checkmate in two. After 28.♙xg4 fxg4 29.♘xe6 ♖e5 White's days are numbered, e.g., 30.♙c4+ ♜b8 31.♘c5 ♜a7 32.♙b4 ♙d5 etc.

28.♙h5! An unpleasant surprise.

28...♘g6 28...♙e7? is terrible in view of 29.♘xf5! 29.♙e1 e5 30.♘xf5 ♜b8 31.♙f3 ♖gf8 32.♙d1 ♙b5 33.♙xb5 axb5 34.♘d6 ♙d8 35.♜g1 Certainly not 35.♘xb5? ♙xd1+ 36.♙xd1 ♙f1+ and wins. 35...♘h4 36.♙e2 White managed to get a pawn back but Black remains in the driver's seat. 36...♘f5 37.♘xb5 ♙xd1+?! Correct is 37...♘g3! forcing 38.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 The bishop doesn't have a good square, while the white king may also get in trouble.

38.♙xd1 ♙d8 39.♙c2 Black must have underestimated this resource.

39...♘d6? This mistake robs Black of all his winning chances. He is still ahead after 39...♙e3 40.♙xh7 ♙d2 41.♙e4 ♙xb2 42.a4 ♙a2 43.♙f3 ♙xa4 44.♜f2 ♘f5.

40.♘xd6 ♙xd6 41.♙xh7 ♜c7 Unfortunately, after 41...♙d2? 42.g4 ♙xb2 43.g5 the pawn cannot be stopped.

42.♙e4 ♙d2 43.h4 ♙e2 44.♙d3 ♙d2 45.♙e4 ♙e2 46.♙d3 ♙d2 47.♙f5

White correctly decides to give it a try.

47...♘d6 48.g4



48...♙xb2? The losing move.

48...e4!! is the only way but it is hard to find: 49.♙xe4 ♜e5 50.♙xb7 ♙xb2 51.♙c8 ♙xa2 Black will soon pick up the c-pawn with an easy draw.

49.g5 ♜e7 50.h5 ♙xa2 51.h6 ♜f8 52.g6 ♙a6 53.♜g2 Black is helpless as the white pawns are too strong.

53...♙d6 54.♜f3 ♙c6 55.♜e4 1-0

## Round 4: Sunday, April 5

CM Rafael Arruebarrena 0:1 Gary Ng



Quite an unfortunate turn of events for Rafael. He was up a pawn in an endgame and had two connected passers. Who would have expected Black to win?

## Arruebarrena, Rafael (2334) – Ng, Gary (2320) [B19]

2015 Alberta Closed (4), 05.04.2015

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♙f5 5.♘g3 ♙g6 6.h4 h6 7.♘f3 ♘d7 8.h5 ♙h7 9.♙d3 ♙xd3 10.♙xd3 e6 11.♙d2 ♘gf6 12.0-0 ♙e7 13.♜b1 c5 14.♘e4 ♙b6 A rare continuation.

Black automatically castles most of the time. 15.♘e5 This pawn sacrifice is sound. 15...cxd4 16.♘xd7 ♘xd7 17.♙g3 ♜f8 18.♙f4 ♙c8 19.♙he1 White has full compensation for the pawn.

19...♘f6 20.♙e5 ♙c6 21.♙d3 ♘h5 22.♙xd4 ♙xc2+ 23.♜a1 The black king in the center justifies White's second pawn sacrifice. 23...♙c4 An exchange of queens won't solve Black's problems. Instead, he should try to get his king to safety 23...♜g8!?

and then connect the rooks. 24.♙xa7 White seizes an opportunity to get material back but loses the initiative. Correct is a somewhat surprising 24.♙xc4! ♙xc4 25.♙d7 and White's position is to be preferred despite a two-pawn deficit. 24...♘f6 25.♙xf6 Risky. White should simply grab a second pawn 25.♙xb7 ♘xe4 26.♙xe4 ♙xe4 27.♙xe4 f6 28.♙c3 ♜f7 with an equal position.

25...gxf6 26.♙xb7 ♙c7 Here and later Black has a strong resource 26...f5 seizing the initiative. 27.♙b6 ♜g7 28.♘c3 ♙a8 29.♙e4 ♙c5 30.♙g4+ ♜h7 31.♙xc5 ♙xc5 32.♙c4 The previous few moves featured inaccuracies from both sides; White emerged with a slight advantage. The queens are off

the board meaning that he can start advancing his queenside passed pawns. Before that, however, Black must get rid of the pin.



32...♙g8? A surprising blunder. Correct is 32...♙cc8 intending to answer 33.♘e4 with 33...♙e7

33.♘e4 ♙gc8 34.♙dc1 The simplest way to win is actually 34.♙xc5 ♙xc5 35.♘xc5 ♙xc5 36.b4 ♙b5 37.♙b1 then the pawns advance quickly.

34...♙b6 35.♙xc7 ♙xc7 36.♙xc7 ♙xc7 37.♘xf6+ ♜g6 38.♘d7 ♙d6 39.a4 Nevertheless, White has won a pawn and it seems that he shouldn't have much trouble converting. 39...♙b4 40.♘e5+ ♜f5 41.♘c6 ♙e1 42.f3? This natural move loses time that suddenly becomes precious. In fact, White may not be winning anymore!

Best is 42.a5! ♙xf2 43.a6 e5 44.a7 ♙xa7 45.♘xa7 The knight and the king will stop the e-pawn, then White's b-pawn will tell.

42...♜f4 43.b4 ♜g3 44.b5 ♜xg2 45.b6 h5 46.a5 h4 47.a6 h3 48.a7 h2 49.a8 ♙h1 ♙ 50.♜b2 ♙h4



This position is drawn but White's mis-



adventures aren't over yet. **51.♖g8+?** Hard to believe but it's the losing move. **51.♖a2** is probably the simplest way to get a draw.

**51...♔f1!** The white king is surprisingly defenceless and it's too late to do anything about it. **52.♖xf7 ♖f2+ 53.♔a3 ♖c5+** Precisely played. **54.♔a2 ♖c4+ 55.♔a3 ♔d2 56.♔b2 ♔c1+ 57.♔b1 ♖c3** Checkmate is inevitable. **0-1**

FM Alex Yam ½:½ IM Richard Wang



No doubt one of the most tense games of the tournament. Black played well the first half of the game and picked up a couple of extra pawns. However, Richard might have underestimated White's threats on the kingside and could have paid a price. Alex sacrificed a rook and was the only one playing for a full point. The computer does find winning continuations for him but in time pressure Alex decided to play it safe. As it often happens, his advantage was insufficient to win although he should have played on in the final position.

**Yam,Alex (2367) –**

**Wang,Richard (2401) [C00]**

2015 Alberta Closed (4), 05.04.2015

**1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.♖d2 ♖c6 4.♖gf3 ♖f6 5.c3 e5 6.♔e2** White is playing the Hanham variation of the Philidor defence with two extra tempi. The following few moves indicate, however, that it may still not be enough for an opening advantage. **6...a5** After **6...♔c5** Black has to seriously reckon with **7.b4 7.a4 dxe4 8.dxe4 ♔c5 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖c2 ♖e7 11.♖c4 ♔d8 12.♔g5 h6 13.♔e3 ♔xe3 14.♖xe3 ♔e6 15.♔c4 ♔xc4 16.♖xc4 ♖c5 17.♖b3** White initiates complications and temporarily sacrifices the e4-pawn. Instead, a simple move like **17.b3** is OK. **17...♖xe4 18.♖ae1 ♖d5 19.♖b5 f5 20.♖e3?!** After this White may not be able to regain

his pawn. Correct is **20.♖e3 ♖xb5 21.axb5 ♖a7 22.♖xf5 ♖d2 23.♖xd2 ♔xd2** with an objectively equal position.

**20...♖ab8!** Now the white pieces are stuck. **21.h3** It is worth mentioning that **21.♖fxe5 ♖xb5 22.axb5 ♖xe5 23.♖xe5 ♔d5** leads to simplifications favoring Black. **21...♖e6!** An excellent move emphasizing that the white queen doesn't have many squares. Black is going to put his rook on d5 next. **22.g4** A desperate attempt to muddy the waters at a cost of another pawn. **22...fxg4 22...g6** is also possible and may be a more practical decision. **23.♖xe4 gxf3 24.♔h2 h5** Black has plenty of good consolidating moves, one of them being **24...♔d5**

**25.♔g1 ♖f5?!** **25...♔d5** should still be the cornerstone of Black's defence. **26.♖b3** A tempting move but not the best one. Instead, after **26.♖ee1!?** White is probably going to win the e5-pawn soon maintaining the initiative.

**26...♔h7?!** Of course not **26...♖xe4??** **27.♖d6+** and wins. The text move looks natural but gives White more tactical ideas. The computer suggests a remarkable **26...♔h8! 27.♖c2 g5!!** preventing White's plan in the game.

**27.♖c2 g6 28.h4!** The position has become totally unclear. White has a strong initiative and is probably going to regain material soon. **28...♖d7?** This leaves the black king too lonely. Tenacious **28...♖f6** is correct.



**29.♖xg6** A tempting, spectacular and a fully sound rook sacrifice. However, an equally spectacular **29.♖f4!?** deserves serious attention. **29...♔xg6 30.♔g4+ ♔f7 31.♖g6+ ♔e7 32.♖g7+**

The computer points out to a cold-blooded **32.♖xh5!?** continuing the attack with a rook less.

**32...♔e6 33.♖g6+ ♔e7 34.♖g7+ ♔e6 35.♖g6+** White can deviate with **35.♖h6+ ♔d5 36.♖d2+ ♔c5 37.♖e3+** with a more forceful transposition to the game. **35...♔d5?** This winning attempt backfires badly. **35...♔e7** is a must. **36.♖e4+ ♔c5** The critical position of the battle.



**37.♖e3+** Not bad as White's attack remains strong. Nevertheless, the computer finds the following spectacular win: **37.b4+!! axb4 38.cxb4+ ♖xb4 (or 38...♔xb4 39.♖b1+ ♔xa4 40.♖b6+ ♔a3 41.♖a4#) 39.♖xe5+ ♖d5 40.♖xc7+ ♖c6 41.♖e7+ ♖d6+ 42.♖xd6 hxg4 43.♖xb7+** with a decisive material advantage.

**37...♖d4 38.♖xe5+ ♖d5** The only move. Black can't be satisfied with **38...♔xc4? 39.♖xd4+ ♖xd4 40.♖b5# 39.♖e7+** Understandably, White decides to play it safe but lets Black off the hook. Instead, after **39.♖xc7+! ♖c6 40.cxd4+ ♔xc4 41.d5+ ♔xd5 42.♖xa5+ b5 43.♖d2+ ♔c5 44.♖e3+ ♔d6 45.♔g6+** White maintains good winning chances in the endgame. Finding this line on move 39 must be impossible though.

**39...♔xc4 40.♖xd4+ ♖xd4 41.cxd4 ♔xd4?** This renews White's winning hopes. Correct is **41...c6** as the d4-pawn isn't going to run away. A sample line is **42.♖e3 ♖xd4 43.♖c3+ ♔d5 44.♖xf3+ ♔e6 45.♖xh5 ♖f8** The black rooks are very active securing a draw.

**42.♖e3+ ♔d5 43.♖xf3+** Now the rooks are passive and White can play on. **43...♔d6 44.♖f6+ ♔d7 45.♖f7+ ♔d6 46.♖f6+ ♔d7 47.♖f5+ ♔d6 48.♖xh5 b6 49.♖g6+ ♔d7 50.f4 ♔g8 51.♖f5+ ♔c6 52.♖e4+ ♔d6 53.♖e5+ ♔c6 54.♖e4+ ♔d6 55.♖d4+** Somewhat surprisingly, a draw was agreed here.



It would have been interesting to see how Black was going to save half a point after 55.h5 In any case, a tremendous battle! ½-½

IM Edward Porper ½:½ Daniel Kazmaier

The most confusing game of the tournament. White won a whole piece for a pawn, and his win looked like just a matter of time. However, as it often happens, the time pressure changed the situation dramatically. When the dust settled, White was suddenly obligated to force a draw by repetition to avoid the worst.

**Porper,Edward (2492) – Kazmaier,Daniel (2312) [D91]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (4), 05.04.2015

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗g5 c6. 5...♘e4 is the most popular continuation endorsed by a lot of big names. 6.e3 0-0 7.♖b3 dxc4 8.♗xc4 b5 9.♗e2 ♗e6 10.♖d1 ♘bd7 11.0-0 h6 12.♗f4 g5 This looks too weakening. Immediate 12...♘h5!? deserves attention. 13.♗g3 ♘h5 14.♗e5 f6

An attempt to justify Black's previous play but White finds a strong riposte. 15.d5! ♗f7

After 15...cxd5 16.♘d4 ♘c5 17.♘xe6 ♘xe6 18.♗xh5 fxe5 19.♘d5 White's positional superiority is indisputable.

Now several pieces are in awkward positions so the situation on the board has become quite confusing. The following few moves are full of inaccuracies until White emerges with an extra piece. 16.♘d4?!

The complications after 16.♗d4! favor White but it was difficult to calculate. 16...♘xe5! The only but sufficient move. 17.♗xh5 ♗xd5?!

Instead, 17...b4! 18.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 19.♘e6 ♖d7 is equal.

18.f4 ♘c4 19.♘f5?! e6! 20.♘xg7 ♘xg7 21.e4 This ends up well for White but only thanks to Black's cooperation. 21...♖b6+?

Instead, after 21...♘xb2 22.♖e2 ♗c4 23.♖xb2 ♗xf1 24.♘xf1 gxf4 Black obtains material advantage and should be the one playing for a win.

22.♖f2 ♖ad8 23.exd5 cxd5 24.♖d3 White is now up a piece and the black king is unsafe. 24...f5 25.♘e2 d4 26.♘g3 ♖d6 27.b3 ♘e3 28.fxg5 hxg5 29.♖xb5 g4 30.♖c1 d3 31.♖d2 e5? Black managed to create some play at



Foreground: Porper – Kazmaier. Background: Yam – Wang and Arruebarrena – Ng.

a cost of a pawn and now 31...♖d4!? presents White with some problems.



32.♖a4? The game is essentially over after 32.♖c6 ♖d5 33.♗g6+ ♘h7 34.♖a6 ♖d7 35.♖h6+ ♘g8 36.♗g6 etc.

32...♖d4 Black doesn't miss his chance for the second time. 33.♖c7+ ♘h6 34.♖c6+ White can retain his material advantage by playing with a computer precision: 34.♖xa7 ♖xa7 35.♖xa7 f4 36.♖a6+ ♘g5 37.♗g6+ ♘h4 38.♗xg4 ♘xg4 39.♘e4.

Now, all of a sudden, it's very hard for him to keep his winning hopes alive.

34...♘g5 35.♗g6+ ♘h4 36.♖xd4 ♖xd4 37.♖h6 ♘g5 38.♗g6+ ♘h4 39.♖h6 f4 40.♗e8+ White has to take a draw to avoid the worst. 40...♘g5 41.♗g6+ ♘h4 42.♖h6+ ♘g5 ½-½

## Round 5: Sunday, April 5

Daniel Kazmaier ½:½ CM Rafael Arruebarrena

Rafael clearly outplayed his opponent but couldn't deliver a knockout punch.

**Kazmaier,Daniel (2312) – Arruebarrena,Rafael (2334) [A45]**  
2015 Alberta Closed (5), 05.04.2015

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗g5 ♘e4 3.♗f4 d5 4.f3 ♘f6 5.c4 e6 6.♘c3 ♗d6 7.♗xd6 ♖xd6 8.c5. 8.e4 looks like a logical follow-up but White has a different setup in mind. 8...♖e7 9.f4 0-0 10.b4 b6 11.e3 a5 12.a3 So White seized a lot of space but barely moved any pieces.

12...c6 The computer points out to an amazing 12...♘g4!! taking advantage of White's lag in development. The e3-pawn can be defended by the king only so White should prefer 13.♖xg4 axb4 14.♘b1 bxc5 In this highly unbalanced position Black's pawn mass outweighs White's knight.

13.♗d3 ♗a6 A very interesting opportunity is 13...e5!? For example, 14.dxe5 axb4 15.axb4 ♖xa1 16.♖xa1 bxc5 17.exf6 ♖xe3+ 18.♗e2 cxb4 with initiative and a lot of pawns for a piece. 14.♗c2 ♘bd7 15.♘f3 ♘g4 16.♘g5? White gets in trouble after this. 16...f5! 17.♖d2 e5! This spectacular breakthrough refutes White's whole strategy.



18.0-0 axb4 19.axb4 bxc5 20.dxc5  
 ♖c4 21.h3 ♘h6 22.♙d3 ♙b3 23.♙c2  
 ♙c4 24.♙d3 ♙xd3 25.♙xd3 ♘f7 26.  
 ♘xf7 ♙xf7 27.♙c2 White managed to  
 exchange a few pieces but his position  
 remains bad because of his exposed  
 king. Unfortunately, Black must have  
 lost the thread of the game at this point  
 and allowed the opponent to escape.



27...♙ab8 Too slow. After another ele-  
 gant breakthrough 27...d4! 28.exd4 e4  
 29.♙e3 ♙c4 White's position becomes  
 critical. 28.♙b1 ♙g6 29.♙hg1 ♙b7?  
 30.g4? White misses an opportunity to  
 win an important pawn by 30.♙xd5!  
 30...fxg4? Black loses the rest of his  
 advantage, and the game peters out to  
 equality. 31.♙xg6 hxg6 32.♙xg4 exf4  
 33.exf4 g5 34.b5 ♙xc5 35.♙xg5 ♙xf4  
 36.bxc6 ♙f2+ 37.♙d1 ♙xb1+ 38.  
 ♙xb1 ♙f6 39.♙c3 ♙xc6 40.♙xd5 ♙d6  
 41.♙e1 ½-½

Gary Ng 0:1 FM Alex Yam

The tournament situation after four rounds  
 of play was quite intriguing. IM Richard  
 Wang was leading with 3/4 but his oppo-  
 nent in the last round was the rating favor-  
 ite IM Edward Porper. FM Alex Yam had  
 2.5/4, while three more players were tied  
 for third with 2/4. The pairings in round 5  
 were such that it was theoretically possible  
 for the tournament to end in a four-way tie  
 for the first place!

In this game both players were essentially  
 in a must-win situation. Alex played more  
 accurately and capitalized on the oppo-  
 nent's mistakes. The win guaranteed him a  
 clear second place and possibly more...

Ng, Gary (2320) –

Yam, Alex (2367) [A00]

2015 Alberta Closed (5), 05.04.2015

1.b4 e5 2.♙b2 ♙xb4 3.♙xe5 ♘f6 4.c4  
 0-0 5.♙f3 ♙e8 6.e3 ♘c6 7.♙b2 d5  
 Both players follow an official main line  
 of the Sokolsky opening. 8.a3 ♙f8  
 8...♙a5 intending to delay d2-d4 is  
 more popular. 9.cxd5 White can take  
 advantage of Black's last and play  
 9.d4!? immediately. 9...♙xd5 10.♙e2  
 ♙a5 11.0-0 c5 12.♙e5 Too fancy.  
 White should just develop: 12.♙c3

12...♙e6 Here 12...♙f5!? not allowing  
 White to develop his queen's knight  
 deserves attention. 13.♙c3 f6 14.♙f3  
 ♙b8 15.d4 a6 Black can favorably un-  
 balance the position by 15...c4 with the  
 idea 16.e4?! ♙xc3 17.♙xc3 ♙b3 18.  
 ♙a2 b5 His queenside pawns are more  
 dangerous than White's center.

16.dxc5! denying Black the idea of c5-  
 c4. 16...♙xc5 17.♙xd5

The computer really likes White after  
 17.♙c2 ♙xc3 18.♙xc3

17...♙xd5 White's position is still fine  
 but the problem is that it's unclear  
 what he should do. 18.♙d4 b5 19.♙c3  
 ♙c4 20.♙b4 ♙b6 21.♙f3? Somewhat  
 surprisingly, a decisive mistake.

21.♙f5 maintains the balance as  
 21...a5? loses material to 22.♙e7+

21...a5 22.♙c3 Relatively best is 22.  
 ♙c6 ♙xc6 23.♙xc6 axb4 24.♙xe8  
 ♙xe8 but White was obviously not so  
 excited about this line.



22...♙xe3! 23.fxex3 ♙xe3 Material  
 losses are unavoidable. 24.♙h1

The trickiest line is 24.♙xa5 but Black  
 remains on top after 24...♙c4! 25.♙xb6  
 ♙xb6 26.♙d2 ♙d3.

24...♙xc3 25.♙xb5 ♙c5 The rest is a  
 matter of technique. 26.a4 ♙c4 27.  
 ♙xd8+ ♙xd8 28.♙fc1 ♙b3 29.♙cb1  
 ♙c2 30.♙c1 ♙f5 31.h3 h6 32.♙h2 ♙  
 h7 33.♙g3 ♙d2 34.♙xc5 ♙xc5 35.♙d1  
 ♙a2 36.♙d5 ♙f2+ 37.♙f4 ♙c2 38.♙c3

g5+ 39.♙g4 ♙g6 40.♙d1 ♙xd1+ 41.  
 ♙xd1 ♙a3 0-1

IM Richard Wang 1:0 IM Edward Porper

The culmination of the whole tournament.  
 Both opponents were in a must-win situa-  
 tion and took more risk than they normally  
 would. The evaluation of the position  
 changed many times; Richard was lucky to  
 make the last but one mistake.

Wang, Richard (2401) –

Porper, Edward (2492) [E61]

2015 Alberta Closed (5), 05.04.2015

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 3.e3 ♙d7 4.♙c3  
 ♙gf6 5.♙f3 g6 6.♙e2 ♙g7 7.0-0 0-0 8.

♙b1 This move may be considered a  
 loss of a tempo. White can start ad-  
 vancing the pawns immediately: 8.b4  
 ♙e8 9.a4 e4 10.♙d2 etc. 8...♙e8 9.b4  
 e4 10.♙d2 ♙f8 11.f3 Technically, a  
 novelty. A normal move is 11.a4 play-  
 ing the King's Indian attack (KIA) with  
 the colors reversed. 11...exf3 12.♙xf3  
 Old KIA theory judged this plan to be  
 insufficient for equality although the  
 evaluation may have changed since.

12...♙e6 13.♙b2 ♙g5 14.e4 Other-  
 wise, White is simply worse. 14...h5 A  
 typical thrust in the KIA. The computer  
 recommends a useful semi-waiting  
 move 14...c6!? inviting White to define  
 his intentions. 15.h3 c5?! It is tempting  
 to undermine the white center but giv-  
 ing up the d5-square turns out to be a  
 significant concession.

15...c6!? is still good as White is in  
 some difficulty finding a useful move.  
 Moreover, after something like 16.a4?  
 Black has 16...♙g4! 17.hxg4 ♙xd4+  
 with a decisive attack.

16.dxc5 dxc5 17.e5?! Too optimistic.  
 It turns out that the simple 17.bxc5! is  
 correct. For example, 17...♙d4+ 18.♙  
 h1 ♙xc5 19.♙d5 ♙xd5 20.cxd5 ♙xb2  
 21.♙xb2 and White is a little better.

17...♙xe5 18.♙d5 ♙xd5 Now White  
 can breathe a sigh of relief. It would  
 have been interesting to see what  
 Richard was going to do after 18...♙f5!  
 For example, after 19.♙xf6 ♙xf6 20.  
 ♙xf6+? ♙xf6 Black has an extra pawn  
 and the better position.

19.♙xd5 Certainly not 19.♙xe5? which  
 loses immediately to 19...♙e3 20.♙e2  
 ♙xe5. The black knight is taboo.

19...♙f5 One move too late. Instead,  
 Black can sacrifice an exchange

## 2015 AB Closed Crosstable

N	Player	CFC	FIDE	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts	Place
1	FM Alex Yam	2367	2299							3½	II
2	IM Edward Porper	2492	2429							2	IV-V
3	NM Daniel Kazmaier	2312	2208							1	VI
4	IM Richard Wang	2401	2365							4	I
5	NM Gary Ng	2320	2149							2	IV-V
6	CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2334	2277							2½	III

19...♖xd5 20.cxd5 ♖xd5 21.♗xg7 ♖xg7 22.bxc5 ♖xc5+ 23.♔h1 ♖d5 with an equal position.

20.♗xg7 ♖xg7 21.bxc5 ♖e7 22.♖b3?! The knight is needed on the kingside. Instead, White should just exchange pawns by means of 22.♗xf5 ♗xf5 23.♖xb7 ♖xc5+ 24.♔h1 with a better position.

22...♖e3+ 23.♔h1 ♖e4! Correct.

23...♖xh3 is tempting but White has a strong reply 24.♖d4+ ♖xd4 25.♖xd4 ♗xf1+ 26.♗xf1 ♖g5 27.♖b5 and it is Black who has to fight for a draw.

24.♗xe4 ♖xe4 25.♗e1 ♖xc4 26.♗e8 White was counting on this resource but it has a well-hidden flaw. Instead, after 26.♗c1 ♖d5 27.♖e2 the computer gives White full compensation for the pawn. 26...♗d5! 27.♖e1 The critical position of the whole tournament.



27...♗d3? What a pity!

Black has an amazing 27...♗xh3!! with a decisive advantage in all lines. For example, 28.♗xa8 ♗xg2+ 29.♔h2 ♗g5! 30.♖f2 ♖e6 etc. Certainly, the position is complex and difficult to calculate. However, Black should have gone for it simply because the game continuation is terrible for him.

28.♗c1! Now Black doesn't even have a meaningful move. 28...♗d7? 29.c6! And suddenly it's all over. 29...♗d5 Or 29...bxc6 30.♖c5 and wins.

30.c7 b6 31.♖e7 ♗f5 32.♖f8+ ♔f6 33.♖e7+ ♔g7 34.h4 ♗f1+ 35.♔h2!

Avoiding 35.♗xf1? ♖xf1+ 36.♔h2 ♖f4+ 37.♔g1 ♗a6 38.♗xa8 ♖f1+ 39.♔h2 ♖f4+ with a perpetual check.

35...♗e6 36.♖f8+ ♔f6 37.♖e7+ ♔g7 38.♗xa8 ♗xc1 39.♖f8+ 1-0

And thus IM Richard Wang emerged undefeated with 4/5 winning the AB Closed

for the second time in his career. Interestingly enough, it can be concluded by looking at the games that Richard could have lost all five of them! However, his resilience and resourcefulness allowed him to emerge unscathed and to repeat his success from 2012. Congratulations!

FM Alex Yam came close to defending his title but finished half a point behind the winner. CM Rafael Arruebarrena scored 2.5/5 and took clear third. Rafael looked like the most solid player of the tournament and could have won it if he had converted his won positions into full points. Final standings are summarized in the crosstable of the event.

The Alberta Reserves tournament took place alongside the main event. Diwen Shi finished first with four wins and a zero-point bye. Kim Nguyen and Mohamad Fellah tied for second with 3.5/5.

Nguyen, Kim (2231) – Shi, Diwen (2201) [B52]

2015 Alberta Reserves (3), 04.04.2015



After a fairly standard opening and early middlegame play the opponents have reached a typical position in the 3.Bb5+ Sicilian.

20.♖e3 ♖c5 21.♖xc5? This capture is hard to explain as White loses all his structural advantage at once. Better is 21.♗f2 and White can pressure the d6-pawn for a long time.

21...dxc5 22.♗xd7 ♖xd7 23.♗d1 ♖f8 Perhaps, White was hoping to get control of the d-file but the problem is that his rook has no entry squares. 24.♗d3 ♖d4 25.♖c1 g5 26.♗e1 ♖g6 27.♔f1? White will lose at least a pawn after this. 27.♖3e2 covering the f4-square was essential.

27...♖f4 28. ♗d1? Now White loses even more material. 28.♗d2 ♖xb3 29. ♖xb3 ♗xc3 is relatively best but Black has excellent winning chances.

28...♖c2! White can resign right here. Black went on to win in 46 moves. 0-1

## 2015 Alberta Active ends in a three-way tie for the first place

The tournament took place in Red Deer on August 16. The event attracted 14 participants and turned out to be extremely uncompromising: only two draws out of 35 games played!

David Miller won his first four games and seemed to be in complete control of the tournament. In the last round David needed just a draw to secure the title. However, his opponent Nicolas Haynes had a different opinion and ended up winning the decisive battle.

Thus, Nic was able to catch the leader, along with Dante Briones who defeated Tristan Tran-Ly. The three shared the first place with a score of 4/5. The ACA thanks Alexey Taranik for organizing and Tristan Tran-Ly for directing the event.

## Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Paul Viminitz  
Email [vimipo@uleth.ca](mailto:vimipo@uleth.ca)

Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South  
(on the second floor in the games room)

6:00pm until 9 or 10pm  
[www.lethbridgechess.ca](http://www.lethbridgechess.ca)



## GM Pentala Harikrishna shows strong performance at the 10th Edmonton International

The 10th edition of the traditional festival featured another stellar roster of prominent grandmasters. The Ukrainian legend Vassily Ivanchuk came to Edmonton once again to defend his 2014 title. Sam Shankland was invited back and got a chance to improve upon his result from last year. Surya Shekhar Ganguly also played in the tournament for the second time. His previous result actually goes back to 2008 when he tied for third with 5.5/9. The other two GMs participated in the event for the first time. Pentala Harikrishna from India looked like the biggest challenge for the defending champion as he started the first round with exactly the same FIDE rating as Vassily Ivanchuk. The most intriguing player of the event, however, was the Chinese GM Hao Wang. Hao has been consistently playing at the very top level for a few years and scalped, among others, such stars as Magnus Carlsen, Vishy Anand and Levon Aronian.

There were two other players who participated in the festival for the first time: IM Aman Hambleton from Ottawa and WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement from Leduc. NM Rob "Rocket" Gardner has earned his spot by winning a qualifier in May. The roster was completed by local FMs Vladimir Pechenkin and Dale Haessel.

Given such a large gap between the top and the bottom half of the players, the results of the tournament were hardly surprising. The GMs gave away just four draws to the rest of the field, and there was only one upset out of 45 games played. That thriller, however, was undoubtedly the best game of the festival from the spectators' point of view.

**Hambleton, Aman (2446) – Haessel, Dale (2180) [A34]**  
10th Edmonton Intl. (6), 26.06.2015

1.c4 c5 2.♖c3 g6 3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 ♜f6 5.e3 ♜c6 6.♗ge2 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.d4 cxd4 9.exd4 ♗f5 10.h3 h5 11.♗g5 ♖d7 12.♗h2 e5 13.d5 White may be satisfied with the outcome of the opening. His last move indicates a desire to play a complex game. 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.♖xd7 ♜xd7 15.♖ad1 with pressure is a good alternative. 13...♜a5?! Here the knight is going to



Round 7 on Friday night was well attended. On board 1 IM Aman Hambleton managed to get a draw against the defending champion GM Vassily Ivanchuk from Ukraine.

be out of play for a long time. 13...♜b4 is preferable. 14.b3 a6 15.♜a4 15.f3!? intending to trap the bishop is an interesting alternative.

15...♖c7 16.♖c1 ♗d7 17.♜ec3 b6 18.♗e3 ♖fb8 19.f4 Logical. The black rook has left the f-file so White initiates play on the kingside. 19...exf4 20.♖xf4 ♖d8 21.♜b2 b5 22.c5?! White has made good progress over the last few moves and 22.cxb5 axb5 23.♜d3 would maintain a nice advantage.

22...dxc5 23.♗xc5 ♜b7 24.b4 Now the position is unclear. 24...♗f5 25.d6 White is ready to sacrifice an exchange for the opponent's dark-squared bishop but Black refrains from taking it for the time being. 25...♖d7?! The computer advocates a retrograde 25...♜e8 intending to eliminate the annoying d6-pawn even at a cost of an exchange. 26.♖h1!? Increasing the pressure along the long diagonal. 26...♗h6 Black finally decides to take the exchange but the timing isn't perfect. The computer suggests 26...a5 with the idea to get the a8-rook in play. However, after 27.♗c6 ♖c8 28.♜xb5 ♜xc5 29.♗xa8 ♖xb5 30.♖xc5 ♖xc5 31.bxc5 ♖xc5 32.♖c6 White forces favorable simplifications with good winning chances.

27.♗c6 Both players were already short of time at this point, which explains mutual inaccuracies in this very complicated position. 27.♜d3! is surprisingly strong as after 27...♗xd3? 28.♖xf6 ♗xc1 29.♖xc1 the knight will jump to d5 soon with a decisive attack. 27...♖c8 28.♖xf5? 28.♜d3 is still good. After 28...♗xf4 29.♜xf4 White has fantastic compensation for the exchange. 28...gxf5? Black returns the favor. Correct is 28...♖xf5! and White doesn't have time to take on b7. After 29.♖f1 ♖c2+ 30.♖g2 ♖xc3 31.♗xb7 ♖xb7 32.♖xb7 ♖e8 Black's counterplay is sufficient for equality and maybe more.

29.♖f1 ♜xc5 30.bxc5 ♖a7 31.♜d3 ♖e6 32.♖f3 White has an overwhelming position notwithstanding a small material deficit. However, the time control is still far away. 32...♖c8 33.♜d5? After 33.♖e1! Black wouldn't be able to last long. For example, 33...♖c4 34.♜d5 ♜xd5 35.♗xd5 ♖c3 36.c6 etc. 33...♜e4! A strong riposte changing the situation on the board once again. 34.♖xh5 White bets everything on his attack but it should be enough only for a draw. Best is 34.d7 ♖xd7 35.♗xd7 ♖xd7 36.♜b6 ♖d8 37.♜xc8 ♜d2 38.♖xf5 ♜xf1+ 39.♖xf1 ♖xc8 40.♖e2 with winning chances in the endgame. 34...♖xc6 35.♖xf5 ♗g7 36.♜3f4 ♖e8 37.♜b4? A logical conclusion at this

plains mutual inaccuracies in this very complicated position. 27.♜d3! is surprisingly strong as after 27...♗xd3? 28.♖xf6 ♗xc1 29.♖xc1 the knight will jump to d5 soon with a decisive attack. 27...♖c8 28.♖xf5?

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34...♖xc6 35.♖xf5 ♗g7 36.♜3f4 ♖e8 37.♜b4? A logical conclusion at this

point would be 37. ♖g4 ♜xc5 38. ♗h5 ♜c2+ 39. ♔g1 ♜c1+ 40. ♗h2 ♜c2+ with a draw by repetition.

**37... ♜c8** A few spectators saw 37... ♗xg3! 38. ♔xg3 ♖e1+ 39. ♔f3 ♖xb4 completely turning the tables.

**38. ♗bd3 ♖d7?** Missing another great chance: 38... ♗xd6! 39. cxd6 ♜c2+ 40. ♗g2 ♖d7 White's attack is over and Black's material advantage will soon tell. **39. ♗e5 ♖xe5?** Hard to believe but it's the losing move. Correct is 39... ♖e8 asking White to repeat the position: 40. ♗ed3 ♗xd6! etc.

**40. ♖xe5 ♖e8** The players finally made the time control and got an extra half an hour to work with. White has a number of ways to force a draw by a perpetual check but can he try for more?



**41. ♗g5+?** Aman thought for more than 20 minutes but just couldn't find the winning continuation. The only way is 41. ♖g4+! distracting the black queen. After 41... ♖xg4 (41... ♔f8 runs into 42. ♖h4!! ♔g7 43. ♖h5 with a crushing attack.) 42. ♖xe8+ ♔h7 43. hxg4 ♗xc5 44. ♖e7 the computer evaluates the endgame as completely winning for White.

**41... ♗xg5** Dale immediately grabbed the rook and played the following moves quickly. **42. ♖xg5+ ♔f8** **43. ♖h6+ ♔g8** **44. ♗h5 ♖e2+** **45. ♔g1 ♖e1+** **46. ♔f2 ♖f5+!** The rook sacrifice secures a draw by a perpetual check.

**47. ♗xe1 ♖e4+** **48. ♔f2 ♖f5+** **49. ♗e2 ♖e5+** **50. ♗d2 ♖d5+** **51. ♗e1 ♖e5+** **52. ♔f1 ♖f5+** **53. ♗e2 ♖e5+** At this point everybody in the audience was sure that the piece treaty would be signed soon. **54. ♗d3 ♖d5+** **55. ♗e2 ♖e5+** The position has repeated for the third time but neither player claimed a draw.

**56. ♗d1 ♖d5+** **57. ♗c1?!** Objectively, the position is still drawn but White is playing with fire. **57... ♖xc5+** **58. ♗b1 ♖b4+** **59. ♗c2 ♖c4+** **60. ♗d1 ♖d5+** **60... ♖d4+** **61. ♗e2 f6** is a winning try for Black that White may have been hoping for. The game is still drawn in this case.



**61. ♗e1?** In an attempt to win White loses objectivity and crosses the line. Dale spent a lot of time here but found the right continuation. **61... ♖e6+** **62. ♖xe6 fxe6** **63. d7 ♖a8** The only but sufficient move. **64. ♗f6+ ♔f7** **65. ♗e4 ♔e7** Now Black is winning. **66. ♗c5 a5** Somewhat surprisingly, the pawn end-game after 66... ♗d6 67. d8 ♖+ ♖xd8 68. ♗b7+ ♔e7 69. ♗xd8 ♗xd8 is also lost for White. For example, 70. h4 ♔e7 71. ♗d2 a5 72. g4 b4 73. g5 e5 74. h5 a4 75. h6 ♔f7 76. ♗d3 b3 77. axb3 a3 78. ♗c2 e4 etc.

**67. h4 b4** **68. ♗d2 ♖g8** **69. ♗c2 ♖xg3** **70. ♗xe6 ♗xd7** **71. ♗d4 ♔c7** **72. a3 ♔b6** **73. axb4 axb4** **74. h5 ♔a5** **75. ♗e6 ♔a4** **76. ♗b2 ♖g2+** **77. ♗b1 ♖h2** **78. ♗d4 b3** **79. ♗f3 ♖xh5** **80. ♗d4 ♔a3** A tremendous battle! **0-1**

If we remove the suffix "from the spectators' point of view", then the best game of the tournament may as well be the following one. Black's attack is very impressive and completely sound.

**Hambleton, Aman (2446) – Ganguly, Surya Shekhar (2625) [D20]**  
10th Edmonton Intl. (8), 27.06.2015

**1. d4 d5** **2. c4 dxc4** **3. e4 b5** **4. a4 c6** **5. ♗c3 a6** **6. axb5 cxb5** **7. ♗xb5 axb5** **8. ♖xa8 ♖b7** This interesting exchange sacrifice became quite popular lately. It was played by a few strong GMs in-

cluding Kasimdzanov, Nisipeanu and even Hikaru Nakamura. **9. ♖a2**

**9. ♖a1** is much more popular but not necessarily better.

**9... e6** Correct. White's idea is revealed after 9... ♗xe4?! **10. f3 ♗d5** **11. b3** and then the rook can swing along the second rank.

**10. f3 ♗c6** **11. ♗e2 ♖b4+** **12. ♗d2 ♗ge7** **13. b3 0-0** **14. bxc4 bxc4** **15. ♖b1.** [15. ♖c1!? ♖b6 16. ♖xc4 going after the c4-pawn deserves attention.] **15... ♖b6** **16. ♖xb4?** This capture changes the evaluation of the position dramatically.

The fearless computer points out to the right continuation: **16. ♖b2!** ♗xd2+ **17. ♗xd2 c3+** **18. ♗xc3 ♖a5+** **19. ♗d3 ♖a6+** **20. ♗e3 ♖xe2** **21. ♖xe2 ♖c3+** **22. ♔f2 ♖xd4+** **23. ♗e1** The position remains unclear though because of the white rook stuck in the corner.

**16... ♗xb4** **17. ♗c3 ♖ec6** **18. ♖d2 ♖a8** This gives the opponent an opportunity to simplify the position. **18... ♖a6!?** holding on to the c4-pawn is stronger.

**19. ♖e2?** White misses his chance and never gets another real one to come back.

He should have tried **19. ♖xc4 ♗xd4** **20. ♖xd4 ♖xd4** **21. ♖xb4 ♖a6** **22. ♗e2 ♖xc4** **23. ♖xc4 ♖xc4** **24. ♗c1** with good chances to hold the endgame.

**19... ♖a3** **20. ♖c1 ♗xd4** **21. ♗d1 ♖a8** **22. ♗a4 ♖xa4!** Black will be down a lot of material but his spectacular attack is irresistible.



**23. ♖xa4 ♗xf3+** **24. gxf3 ♖e3+** **25. ♔f1 ♖xf3+** **26. ♔g1 ♖e3+** **27. ♔f1 ♖f3+** **28. ♔g1 ♖e3+** **29. ♔f1 ♗d3!** **30. h4**

White is defenceless. For example, **30. ♖xc4 ♖e1+** **31. ♔g2 ♖xd2+** etc.

**30... ♖f4+** **31. ♔g1 ♖e3+** **32. ♔f1 c3!** **33. ♖hh2 ♖a6** A superb picture of



Going back to the championship race, GM Harikrishna has been the most consistent player of the tournament and won the title convincingly with an undefeated score of 7.5/9. The Indian grandmaster played with great energy and looked the most motivated over the board. The defending champion GM Ivanchuk conceded too many draws and finished a whole point behind the winner. GM Ganguly had a solid tournament and also scored 6.5/9. The most intriguing performance was demonstrated by GM Hao Wang. His play in the first half of the festival was visibly affected by the jetlag causing the Chinese grandmaster to concede a couple of unplanned draws to lower rated opponents. However, he picked up his game in the second half of the tournament and actually came very close to winning it. All he needed to do was to beat the leader in the last round.



## Visiting Indian grandmasters are having a great time in Edmonton

1.c4 ♖f6 2.♗c3 e5 3.♗f3 ♖c6 4.g3  
 ♙b4 5.♗d5 ♗xd5 In general, this cap-  
 ture is premature is Black can't quickly  
 remove the d5-pawn off the board.  
 5...♗c5 is more flexible and popular.  
 6.cxd5 ♗d4 7.♗xd4 [7.♗xe5? gets  
 White is trouble after 7...♗e7]  
 7...exd4 8.♗g2 0-0 9.0-0 d6 10.♗c2  
 ♙c5 11.b3 ♗g4 12.e3 White can be  
 satisfied with the course of the opening  
 so far. If Black captures on e3, White  
 will obtain a superior structure and a  
 comfortable position while playing for  
 two results. Therefore, Black tries to  
 mix things up a bit. 12...♗d7 13.♙b2  
 ♙f5 14.e4! ♗g6 15.d3 The d4-pawn is  
 cut off from the rest of the army and is  
 going to be lost. 15...♗fe8 16.♗h1  
 ♗ac8 17.f4 f6 18.♗f2 ♗b5 19.♗xd4  
 ♗xd3 20.♗xc5 dxc5 21.♗ad1! White  
 evaluated the position correctly. In-  
 stead of trying to win material immedi-  
 ately he strengthens his presence in  
 the center. 21...♗a6 22.♗fe1 ♗d6 23.  
 ♗b2 ♗cd8 24.e5 fxe5 25.fxe5 ♗e7 26.  
 h4 ♗h5 27.♗d2 g5!? Black's position  
 looks so passive that he seeks coun-  
 terplay notwithstanding the weakening  
 of his king. 28.hxg5 ♗xg5 29.♗c3  
 ♗d6 30.♗f2 ♗g7 31.♗e3 ♗g6 32.♗g1

**g5 33.e6** Black has been playing creatively but White maintains a firm grip on the position. **33...♖xc3 34. ♖xc3 c6 34...b6?! isn't going to help since White breaks through with 35.b4! 35.dxc6 bxc6 36.♞e3 ♔g4 37.e7 ♖g6** It seems that White is getting close but the future course of the game suggests that he should look for improvement right here.



**38.♖c2** This wins a pawn but allows the opponent to get rid of an annoying nail on e7. The following regrouping deserves serious attention: 38.♖f4!? ♕d7 39.♖f1 ♖g7 40.♕c4 ♖f6 41.♖fe4 and it feels like Black is on the ropes. **38...♖f7 39.♖xc5 ♖xe7 40.♖xe7+ ♕xe7 41.♕xc6 ♕d6 42.♖c3** During the game it looked like White was going to

convert his advantage into a full point but Black somehow managed to hold.

42...♖g5 43.♙e4 ♖a5 44.♖c2 h5 45.♙f2 ♙d7 46.♗d2+ ♙c7 47.♙d5 ♖c5 48.♙e3 ♖c1 49.♙f3 ♙e8 50.♙f4 ♖f1 51.♖c2+ ♙d6 52.♖c3 ♖f2 53.a3 a5 54.♙g5 ♖h2 55.♖c8 Perhaps, 55.♗d3+ ♙e7 56.♖e3+ is a better try. 55...♙d7 56.♖a8 a4 57.bxa4 ♖a2 58. ♖a6+ [58.♙xh5 ♖xa3 59.g4 ♖xa4 60.♖xa4 ♙xa4 is a tablebase draw.]

58...♙e7 59.a5 ♖xa3 60.♙f4 ♖a4+ 61.♙e4 ♙b5 Now Black can breathe a sigh of relief. 62.♖a7+ ♙d6 63.♙e3 ♖a3+ 64.♙f4 ♖a4 65.♙e3 ♖a3+ 66.♙d4 ♖a4+ 67.♙e3 ½-½

Thus, GM Wang had to settle for 6.5/9 and a share of the second place. GM Shankland finished fifth with 6/9.

The local players were able to get two draws against the GMs: NM Gardner vs. GM Ganguly and FM Pechenkin vs. GM Wang. I was the only one getting a sniff of an IM norm as I needed a win in the last round against IM Hambleton to make it happen. It wasn't meant to be, however.

The tournament was well organized by Micah Hughey and the Edmonton Chess Club. Special thanks goes to David Miller who directed the event and oversaw live game broadcast.

The 11th edition of the festival will take place on June 18-26, 2016.

10th Edmonton International Wallchart													
#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1	GM Vassily Ivanchuk	2733	X	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1	6.5
2	GM Harikrishna Pentala	2733	0.5	X	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	7.5
3	GM Hao Wang	2704	0.5	0.5	X	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	6.5
4	GM Samuel Shankland	2656	0.5	0	0	X	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	6
5	GM Surya Ganguly	2625	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	X	1	1	1	1	0.5	6.5
6	IM Aman Hambleton	2446	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	X	1	1	0	1	4
7	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2314	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	X	1	1	0.5	3
8	WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement	2269	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	1	1	2
9	FM Dale Haessel	2180	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	X	1	2
10	NM Robert Gardner	2133	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	X	1

## Vlad Rekhson and Dante Briones share first at the 10th Edmonton International Open

As usual, a 5-round Open Swiss tournament was held alongside the main event of the festival. The rating favorite was Nicolas Haynes but his run for the first place was cut short by an unexpected loss to Mohamad Fella in round 2. The second seed Vlad Rekhson didn't seem to have a good tournament either as he gave away a couple of draws to low rated players. Nevertheless, Vlad's final score of 4/5 was enough for a share of the first place. The other co-winner was determined in the very last game of the event. It looked like Mohamad Fella would join Vlad at the pedestal but then something happened...

### Fella, Mohamad (1793) – Briones, Dante (1990) [C18]

10th Edmonton Intl. Open (5), 28.06.2015



The game featured a number of twists and turns finally reaching a position that is objectively drawn. Due to an exposed position of his king Black can't make real progress. It seems,

however, that White was still playing for a win not taking into account the changed circumstances.

**61.♔f5??** A terrible blunder that cost White his tournament.

Instead, after a normal waiting move like **61.♖d6** a handshake is in order.

**61...♙e6+! 62.♔f4 ♕d7!**

This regrouping is decisive. **63.♖g1 d2 64.♖d1 ♔e7 65.♔g3 ♙b3 66.♖e2+ ♔d8 67. ♖xb5 d1♖ 0-1**

Thus, it was Dante Briones who ended up with 4/5 jumping onto the pedestal. The third place was shared by Nicolas Haynes, Mohamad Fella and Edison Sabogal, all three participants scoring 3.5/5.

## Rob Gardner wins the Edmonton International Qualifier

As usual, the last spot in the 10th Edmonton International main event went to the winner of the qualifying tournament. The Qualifier was held at the Edmonton Chess Club on May 2-3 and attracted several strong players. Gary Ng from Calgary is known for winning such tournaments but this time he unexpectedly trapped his own rook and lost in the very first round to Joseph Young.

The second seed Nicolas Haynes took advantage of Gary's fiasco and appeared to be in complete control after round 4. Nic defeated three 2200+ players to reach a perfect score of 4/4. He needed just a draw in the last round to secure clear first along with a qualification spot. However, his opponent Robert Gardner had the white pieces and a different plan in mind.

### Gardner, Robert (2239) – Haynes, Nicolas (2277) [A53]

Edmonton Intl. Qualifier (5), 03.05.2015

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 3.♘c3 e5 4.d5 ♙e7 5.e4 c6 6.♘ge2 a6 7.f3 0-0 8.g4** Surprisingly, the opponents are already on an uncharted territory. **8...b5 9.♘g3** White's opening strategy is clear: seize as much space as possible, then catch up with development. Since the position is closed, such an approach often works well. **9...♙b7?! 10.♘f5! bxc4 11.♙xc4 cxd5 12.♘xd5 ♘xd5 13. ♙xd5 ♙xd5 14.♖xd5 ♘d7** White managed to maintain a firm grip on the position and stands clearly better.

**15.♙e3** A slight inaccuracy. Castling kingside is preferable.

**15...♖b8** Now White has to do something about the b2-pawn.

**16.0-0-0?** This is overly optimistic.

White has a nice positional advantage and there is no reason for him to invoke complications. Correct is **16.b3** followed by kingside castling.



**16...♙g5?** Black misses a golden opportunity: **16...♖c7+ 17.♔b1 ♖xb2+! 18.♔xb2 ♖b8+ 19.♖b3** (the only move) **19...♖xb3+ 20.axb3 ♙f8** The computer evaluates this position with unbalanced material as equal.

**17.♙xg5** Rob doesn't give his oppo-



nent another chance and smoothly cruises to victory.

17...♖xg5+ 18.♔d2 ♖xd2+ 19.♔xd2 g6 20.♖xd6 ♖c5 21.♔d5 ♖a4 22.b3 ♖c3 23.♔a5 ♖b5 24.♔xa6 ♖d4 25.♔f1 ♔fd8 26.♖b2 ♔d7 27.♖c4 ♔c7 28.♖c3 ♖b5+ 29.♖d3 ♔d8+ 30.♖e3 ♖d4 31.♔f2 ♖c6 32.♔d2 ♖d4 33.g5 1-0

This win allowed Rob to leapfrog Nic in the standings and to secure a rendez-vous with the Ukrainian genius GM Vassily Ivanchuk in June. Nic's clear second is but a small consolation in this case. Four other players ended up in a tie for the third place with 3.5/5. A total of 28 participants took part in this fundraising event directed by Robert Brazeau.

### Lethbridge Open ends in a three-way tie for the first place

One of the most enjoyable weekend tournaments in Alberta was traditionally held at the Lethbridge Lodge on April 11-12. A total of 20 players participated in this year's edition of the event organized once again by Dr. Paul Viminiz. Dustin Koperski directed his first CFC rated tournament and did a good job.

The first round featured the biggest upset of the weekend: Jack Davies scalped the second seed Kim Nguyen. Interestingly enough, I wasn't really surprised with the outcome of that game for a very simple reason. In round 1 of the 2011 Lethbridge Open Jack completely outplayed the rating favorite (myself), who managed to save half a point only with the help of a miracle.

#### Nguyen, Kim (2222) – Davies, Jack (1692) [B90]

2015 Lethbridge Open (1), 11.04.2015

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 a6 6.h3 b5 7.♔d3 A rare move that scores poorly for White. 7.g4 ♖b7 8.♔g2 is normal. White can meet 8...b4 with 9.♖d5.

7...♖b7 8.♔e2 ♖bd7 9.0-0 e6 10.f4 ♖c7 This position looks like a Sicilian Kan with a rather useless h2-h3 inserted. 11.♖f3 White intends to break in the center with e4-e5. 11...e5 Typical but not really necessary in this particular situation. Instead, Black can play 11...b4!? 12.♖d1 ♔e7 not fearing 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 ♖h5



Rob Gardner – Nic Haynes: the decisive game of the Edmonton International Qualifier

12.♖h4 b4 13.♖d1 g6 14.c3?! Too slow. White should continue developing: 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.♔g5 etc.

14...♖c5 15.♔c2 ♖cxe4 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.♔a4+ ♔c6 18.♔g5? White is trying to confuse his opponent but this move is just bad. 18...♖d7?! However, Black may have indeed got confused. Simpler is 18...♔c5+ 19.♖h2 ♔xa4 20.♖xf6 ♖xf6 21.♖xf6 0-0 and White's position is in ruins.

19.♖c4? Instead, after 19.♔xc6 ♖xc6 20.♖f3 f5 21.♖f2 ♔c5 22.cxb4 ♖xf2+ 23.♖xf2 the position is not so clear.

h1 ♔b5 24.♔e1 bxc3 25.♖xc3 ♔c6 26.♖g4 ♖d4 27.♖g3 ♔ae8 28.♔f1 e4 Black has played well keeping an extra pawn and a firm grip on the position. Here Kim made a move with a few seconds still left on his clock. Unfortunately, he pressed a wrong one in a hurry and didn't have enough time to correct his mistake. As the time on his clock expired, Kim had to be forfeited. In any case, a great game by Jack Davies and a fully deserved point. 0-1

The rest of the weekend didn't feature any major surprises. After 4 rounds the third seed Tristan Tran-Ly was leading with a perfect score, a full point ahead of Kim Nguyen, Mike Zeggelaar and myself. The outcome of the tournament was decided in the last round on the top two boards.



19...♔c5+! 20.♔e3 0-0 Black has several good continuations here including 20...♖d6 21.♖b3 ♔xa4 22.♖xa4 bxc3 23.bxc3 0-0 with an excellent position. 21.♔xc5 ♔xa4 22.♖xe4 ♖xc5+ 23.♖

#### Pechenkin, Vladimir (2389) – Tran-Ly, Tristan (2109) [A39]

2015 Lethbridge Open (5), 12.04.2015

1.c4 g6 2.♖c3 ♔g7 3.g3 c5 4.♔g2 ♖c6 5.♖f3 ♖f6 6.d4 cxd4 7.♖xd4 0-0 8.0-0 ♖g4 9.e3 d6 10.b3 Accepting the sacrifice 10.♖xc6 bxc6 11.♔xc6 ♔b8 is not good for White as I have already learned the hard way in a game against the same opponent.

10...♖ge5 11.h3 ♖xd4 12.exd4 ♖c6 13.♔e3 e5 14.dxe5 dxe5 In this line Black plays quite logically but spends



a lot of time moving his king's knight. As a result, White's lead in development becomes a significant factor.

**15.♘c5 ♖e8 16.♟b5** Another promising direction is 16.♞xd8 ♜xd8 17.♞ad1 ♟f5 18.♟b5 ♟f8 19.♟xf8 ♟xf8 20.♟d6 ♟c2 21.♟d2 ♞ab8 22.c5 ♟d4 23.f4 etc. **16...♟f8 17.♟xf8 ♜xf8 18.♞xd8 ♜xd8 19.♞ad1** White's advantage in development becomes more and more important with every exchange. **19...♟d4 19...♞xd1 20.♞xd1 ♟f8** may be a better try.



**20.f4 f6** After this White's advantage becomes decisive but it's hard to recommend an alternative. **21.fxe5 fxe5 22.♟xd4 exd4** No better is 22...♞xd4 23.♞xd4 exd4 24.♟d5+ ♟g7 25.♞f7+ ♟h6 26.♟xb7 etc.

**23.♟d5+ ♟h8 24.g4** The most accurate continuation as the d4-pawn isn't going to run away. **24...a5 25.♞xd4 ♞a6 26.♞e4 ♟g7 27.♞f7+ ♟h6 28.♞ee7 ♟g5 29.♞e5+ ♟h6 30.g5+ 1-0**

Since Kim defeated Mike in their game on board 2, the top three seeds shared the first place with a score of 4/5.

The 2016 edition of the tournament will see a few changes in the organization but will no doubt remain a very enjoyable event on the ACA calendar.

## ACA Executives top the pedestal of the Red Deer Open

The 2015 Red Deer Open took place at the Red Deer Lodge hotel on May 16-17. A total of 20 players participated in the event organized by Alexey Taranik and directed by Tristan Tran-Ly. In the absence of a clear rating favorite the fight for the first place promised to be very exciting.



Lethbridge Open: playing hall during round 3

The first three rounds did not feature any major surprises. The top two seeds David Miller and Kim Nguyen were leading with a perfect score, while Micah Hughey was closed behind with 2.5/3.

In round 4 David somehow managed to obtain a strategically lost position right out of the opening. However, Kim was unable to deliver a knock-out punch and the tables suddenly turned.

**Nguyen, Kim (2210) – Miller, David (2216) [B55]**

2015 Red Deer Open (4), 17.05.2015



**28.♞f3?** Black is on the ropes after 28.♟f5! threatening a fork on e7. The d6-pawn falls as 28...♞xc6 doesn't help because of 29.dxc6! **28...♞e8 29.♞e3 ♞bc8 30.♞g2?** Apparently, White

is trying to organize an attack against g7 but it doesn't work. A move like 30. h3 covering the g4-square is OK.

**30...♟xd5! 31.♟f5 g6 32.♞xc8 ♞xc8 33.♟xh6+ ♟g7 34.exd5!**

Black has set a nice trap: 34.♟f5+? ♞xf5! 35.exf5 ♞c1+ with decisive material gains, e.g., 36.♞e1 ♞xe1+ 37.♟f2 ♞e2+! 38.♟xe2 ♟xf4+ etc.

**34...♞c1+ 35.♟f2 ♞c2+ 36.♞e2 ♞xe2+ 37.♟xe2 ♞b5+ 38.♟e1 ♞b4+! 39.♟d1 ♞d4+ 40.♟c2 ♟xh6**

Black can improve his position further by means of 40...♞c4+ 41.♟d1 ♞d3+ 42.♟c1 and only then 42...♟xh6

**41.♞f3 ♞c5+ 42.♟d3 ♞g1 43.♞e3?** White gambles. He was obviously not excited about the normal 43.f5 ♞xh2 44.fxg6 ♟xg6 but the pawn endgame is simply lost for him.





43...♖b1+? Black misses his chance. After 43...♖xe3+ 44.♔xe3 ♔h5 45.♔f3 ♔h4 46.f5 g5! White's days are numbered. For example, 47.f6 ♔h5 48.♔e4 ♔g6 etc.

44.♔c3 ♖xa2 The queen endgame is still tricky but after a few mutual inaccuracies White finds a perpetual check. 45.f5+ ♔g7 46.♖d4+ f6 47.♖e4 ♖a5+ 48.♔c2 ♖c5+ 49.♔b3 gxf5 Here, for example, the computer indicates that Black is close to winning after 49...b5!! creating mating threats.

50.♖xf5 ♖b5+ 51.♔a3 ♖c5+ 52.♔a2 a5 53.♖g4+ ♔f7 54.♖d7+ ♔g6 55.♖g4+ ♔f7 56.♖d7+ ½-½

Since Micah won his game in round 4, he joined the leaders with 3.5/4 and set up the stage for the decisive round.

**Nguyen, Kim (2210) –**

**Hughey, Micah (2167) [C65]**

2015 Red Deer Open (5), 17.05.2015

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 ♖f6 4.d3 ♗c5 5.c3 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.0-0 ♖e8 8.♗a4 ♗d7 Curiously, this position cannot be found in the database. 9.♗e3 This move doesn't look bad but White is going to regret it soon. Normal is 9.♗bd2 etc. 9...♗xe3 10.fxe3 d5! Black seizes the initiative. 11.exd5 ♗xd5 12.♖d2 e4! 13.c4? The decisive mistake already. 13.dxe4 ♖f6! leads to an excellent position for Black but White is very much in the game.



13...♗xe3! 14.♖xe3 exf3 15.♖f4 Certainly, 15.♖xf3 ♗e5 16.♖d1 ♗xa4 17.♖xa4 ♖d4+ 18.♔h1 ♗xd3 is terrible for White but the game continuation is hardly any better.

15...♗e5 16.♗c2 fxe2 17.♔xe2 ♗c6+ 18.♔h2 Black has way too many win-



Round 5 of the Red Deer Open

Foreground: Kim Nguyen – Micah Hughey. Background: David Miller – Bill Bentley.

ning moves here. 18...♖d6 19.♗c3 ♗f3+ 20.♔g3 ♖xf4+ 21.♔xf4 ♗d4 22.♗d1 ♖e6 23.♗g4 f5 24.♗xf5 ♖f8 25.♔g4 h5+ White is going to lose a piece so he resigned. 0-1

David got in trouble against Bill Bentley and could have lost almost by force if his opponent had found 28...b4! 29. ♗f5 exf5 30. ♖xd5 ♖f8! Fortunately for David, Bill mistakenly exchanged queens and then allowed White to dominate in a classical “good knight versus bad bishop” endgame. Thus, the first place in the tournament was shared by the ACA President (David) and the Vice-President (Micah). A pretty symbolic results considering the fact that the ACA Board meeting was held in the playing hall right after the conclusion of the last game. Kim Nguyen remained in a sole possession of the third place (3.5/5).

## Red Deer Chess Club

Dawe Centre Library  
Monday nights, 5 pm-6 pm Junior  
program, after 6 pm open play.

Contact Alexey Taranik for more  
information

Phone: 403-8721062

email: [taranik1978@yahoo.ca](mailto:taranik1978@yahoo.ca)

## 32nd Trumpeter Classic

The 2015 edition of the annual event took place at the Sandman hotel in Grande Prairie on June 6-7. Once again, thanks to generous contributions from Caughlin Financial Services and the ACA the tournament prize fund was increased by \$1,000. Wade Caughlin also sponsored a speed chess tournament on Friday night. The main event attracted 18 Albertans plus a visitor from Germany. Christopher Piotrowski with his FIDE rating of 2100 was clearly in contention for the first place, along with three 2200+ CFC rated Albertans.

The biggest upset of the weekend occurred in round 2. Steven Panteluk from Spruce Grove played a great game and defeated Micah Hughey. After two rounds 5 players had perfect score but none of them managed to win in round 3. The fourth round shrank the number of leaders down to 2: David Miller and Christopher Piotrowski.

In the final round David defeated Steven Panteluk, while Christopher was held to a draw by Mike Zeggelaar.

Thus, David Miller finished with 4.5/5 and won the title. Christopher scored 4/5 and took the second place. Just as in Red Deer three weeks before Kim Nguyen ended up with 3.5/5, which was again enough for clear third.

The 33rd edition of the event will take place on May 21-22, 2016.



## North wins the Battle of Alberta in crushing style

The 20th edition of the annual Battle took place at the Red Deer Lodge hotel on September 12. The defending champion North was the favorite once again but the team rating difference was far less staggering than in 2014. Also, it was the first time since 2009 that neither team fielded an International Master.

Round 1 actually went more or less according to the same scenario as in 2014. Team South obtained promising or simply winning positions on several boards and it looked like the Battle would be very close. Then, just as last year, the southerners couldn't convert their advantage into full points and even lost a few games in a dramatic fashion. Here are some examples.

### Banerjee,Bitan (2312) – Ng,Gary (2301) [E15]

2015 Battle of AB (1.3), 12.09.2015



White played poorly in the opening and then got outplayed in the early middle game. Here Black is up a pawn but he decides to grab another one that turns out to be quite hot: **24...♙xe2?! 25. ♖e1! ♙b5** Now White launches a desperate looking attack but it is actually sufficient for a draw.

**26.f5! exf5 27. ♖h4 h5 28. ♙d5 ♜d8** Black reinforces f7 but it's not enough. Initially, the computer prefers **28...♙g7** but then after **29. ♜xf7 ♖xf7 30. ♙xf7** Black has to accept the perpetual to avoid the worst: **30...♙xf7 31. ♖e7+ ♜xe7 32. ♖xe7+ ♙g8 33. ♖e6+** etc.

**29. ♜xf7 ♜xf7?** Surprisingly, the losing move. Correct is **29...♖xf7!** intending to meet **30. ♖f6** with **30...♙e2!** Now the white rook cannot join the attack so

easily and he has to be satisfied with a perpetual check: **31. ♖xg6+ ♙f8 32. ♙h1! ♖d3 33. ♖h6+ ♙g8 34. ♖g1+ ♙g4 35. ♖ad1 ♖xd1 36. ♖xd1 ♙xd1 37. ♖g6+** etc.

**30. ♖f6** Even stronger is **30. ♖e6 ♙h7 31. ♖f6** and Black is defenceless.

**30...♖b6** [30...♙e2! with the same idea as above is the most tenacious defence. In this line, however, White can take advantage of the poorly placed black pieces and still win in a crazy fashion: **31. ♖xg6+ ♙h8 32. ♖f6+ ♙h7 33. ♖xf5+ ♙g7 34. ♙h1! ♙g4 35. ♖g1! ♖e2 36. ♖xh5 ♜h6 37. f3!** etc.] **31. ♖e7** Now it's all over. **31...♙e8 32. ♖xe8 1-0**

### Rekhson,Vladislav (2207) – Gardner,Robert (2256) [B06]

2015 Battle of AB (1.8), 12.09.2015



White has had an overwhelming position for the past 15 moves or so and now it was the time to pull the trigger: **37. ♖xf8+! ♙xf8 38. ♙xe5+ ♙g8 39. ♙d3** etc. **37. ♙e7? ♖e8 38. ♖ae1?**

It wasn't too late for **38. ♖xf8+ ♙xf8 39. ♙f6+ ♙g8 40. ♙xe5** still winning.

**38...♖g6** Now the exposed white king gives Black enough counterplay. **39. g5 ♖h5 40. ♙e2 ♖h4 41. ♙f6??** Throwing away the remaining half a point.

Correct is **41. ♖h1 ♖e4+ 42. ♙f3** when the game goes on.

**41...♙xf6 42. gxf6 ♜fd7** Now it's suddenly over. **43. f7 ♖g8+** Checkmate is inevitable. **0-1**

On board 12 Mohamad Fellah was up a pawn against Mike Zeggelaar but suddenly got mated. On board 11 Jim Daniluk had a pleasant position but for some reason decided to force exchanges and to go into an inferior classical "knight versus bishop" endgame. Dante Briones showed good

technique and brought home a full point. To be fair, North also missed a golden scoring opportunity on board 4.

### Zhang,David (2298) –

### Valencia,Belsar (2299) [B40]

2015 Battle of AB (1.4), 12.09.2015



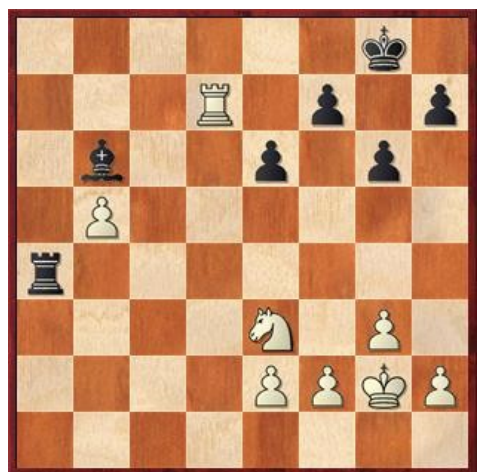
White is down a piece but threatening a perpetual check. **35...♖b8?** Black agrees to split the point but he wasn't obligated to. The only but sufficient winning move is **35...♖g7!** intending **36. ♖bd6+ ♙c8 37. ♖c6+ ♖c7**. White doesn't really have any other ideas. **36. ♖bd6+ ♙c8 37. ♖c6+ ♙d7 38. ♖cd6+ ♙c8 39. ♖c6+ ½-½**

The move of the round could have been played on board 2.

### Kazmaier,Daniel (2310) –

### Arruebarrena,Rafael (2354) [D78]

2015 Battle of AB (1.2), 12.09.2015



White was better out of the opening but should have used his advantage more efficiently. Here Black is threatening to take on e3 making White's win in the rook endgame problematic.



**31...♖b4 32.♘g4 ♜xb5** The position is drawn although Dan managed to win thanks to Rafael's mistake later on.

Unfortunately for South, the good news ended right there. On board 3 Gary Ng underestimated the opponent's kingside attack once again and spoiled a promising position. On board 4 David Zhang sacrificed another piece but this time Belsar Valencia didn't let him off the hook. On board 8 Vlad Rekhson came up with a promising looking combination. The only problem was that Rob Gardner found a simple follow-up leaving him with an extra exchange. Perhaps, the biggest disappointment for Team South was the game on board 7. Siarhei Leuchanka was in control most of the time and should have won. Instead he flagged giving North another unexpected point. On board 1 FM Alex Yam mixed up the move order in the opening and got a difficult position against FM Vladimir Pechenkin. The rest of the game



Captain of Team North Micah Hughey receives the Battle of Alberta trophy from the event organizer and Tournament Director Alexey Taranik. Final score is 17.5:6.5.

This time the move of the round was actually played on board 2.



White sacrificed a couple of pawns in the opening for a dangerous looking kingside attack. The game went back and forth after that reaching the position on the diagram.

27. ♔g5 b4 28. h6 bxc3 29. ♕e3 ♜xd4?  
I am not sure about the idea of this move as now the game is essentially over. 30. ♕xd4 ♜c6 31. ♜g6 ♔a3 32. ♜gxc3 ♔b4 33. ♜xh8 ♜xd4 34. ♔g8+ ♕e7 35. ♔xa8 ♜b3 36. ♜xf7 ♜xf7 37. ♜f1 ♜d2+ 38. ♜g1 ♔e7 39. ♜g3 1-0

Thus, North won round two 9:3. The total score of the match 17.5:6.5 is the biggest difference between the teams in the history of the Battle. In 2004 North won with the same score but then lost 8.5:15.5 in 2005. We'll see what happens in 2016 soon.

## 2015 Battle of Alberta technical results

2010 Data of Alberta Technical Results														
North				CFC	FIDE	R1	R2	Bd	R1	R2	South		CFC	FIDE
FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2379	2318	½	1	1	½	0	FM Alex Yam	2386	2303				
CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2354	2266	0	1	2	1	0	NM Daniel Kazmaier	2310	2222				
Bitan Banerjee		2312	1	1	3	0	0	NM Gary Ng	2301	2196				
NM Belsar Valencia	2299	2229	½	1	4	½	0	David Zhang	2298	2097				
WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement	2294	2260	0	½	5	1	½	FM Dale Haessel	2246	2153				
NM David Miller	2285	2095	1	½	6	0	½	CM Diwen Shi	2242	2181				
NM Nicholas Haynes	2277	2163	1	1	7	0	0	Siarhei Leuchanka	2227	2221				
NM Robert J. Gardner	2256	2156	1	1	8	0	0	NM Vladislav Rekhson	2207	2095				
NM Sasa Grumic	2233	2087	1	1	9	0	0	Yassen Bogoev	1828					
NM Micah Hughey	2148	2113	½	1	10	½	0	NM Georgi Kostadinov	2091	2075				
Dante Briones	1987	1932	1	0	11	0	1	Jim Daniluk	2019	1951				
Mike Zeggelaar	1985	1881	1	0	12	0	1	Mohamad Fellah	1881	1897				
North Totals			8½		9			3½	3	South Totals				
Grand Totals					17½			6½	Grand Totals					
Rating Average		2227	2151					Rating Average		2170	2126			



## FM Dale Haessel and Robert Sasata win the Alberta Open

The 2015/16 Alberta Championship cycle began at the Edmonton Chess Club on the Thanksgiving weekend. David Miller organized and directed the 2015 Alberta Open, which was a traditional six-round Open Swiss.

The rating favorite of the tournament was Robert Sasata from Saskatoon. Robert came close to winning the 2014 edition of the event and was no doubt eager to do even better this year. Several strong players participated in the tournament for the first time: Martins Oteri Efemuai, Butch Villavieja and Cyril Nerubenko who won the 2014 Lethbridge Open with a perfect score.

The weekend featured a couple surprisingly strong performances from juniors. The most impressive one came from Alexander Sasata, whose official CFC rating was only 949 prior to the start. In round 1 Alex upset Dante Briones rated 1988 and pretty much clinched “the biggest upset” prize. In round 4 he could have scalped David Miller but lost the thread of the game and then the full point. In any case, Alexander’s final result of 3.5/6 was a dramatic improvement in comparison with the 2014 Alberta Open.

Nimai Koneru from Calgary also had a great tournament. Nimai came close to upsetting both Robert Gardner and Butch Villavieja and, therefore, should have finished even higher than his 3.5/6. A fragment of Nimai’s last round game will be presented below in this report.

Mike Zeggelaar is not a junior but he may also regard the 2015 Alberta Open as one of the best tournaments of his career. Mike got a free point in round 2 because of his opponent’s cellphone rule violation, then showed strong play and remained on the top boards till the end of the weekend.

After 3 rounds there remained only two players with a perfect score: FM Dale Haessel and Mike Zeggelaar. Naturally, they faced each other in round 4 on board 1. Mike obtained a formidable position on the black side of the Benoni but White was never in real danger of losing. The game ended in a logical perpetual check. This draw allowed Cyril Nerubenko to join the leaders with 3.5/4 by taking advantage of Belsar Valencia’s blunder.

In fact, round 4 featured a few blunders on the top boards, some of them very early on



Foreground: Dustin Koperski – Martins Efemuai and Alexander Sasata – David Miller  
Background: Belsar Valencia – Cyril Nerubenko and Butch Villavieja – Nicolas Haynes

in the game. The following example was particularly stunning.

**Koperski,Dustin (1779) – Efemuai,Martins (2289) [B21]**  
2015 Alberta Open (4.6), 11.10.2015

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♖xc3 e6 5.♗f3 a6 6.♘c4 d6 7.0-0 ♙e7 8.♞e2 b5 9.♙b3 ♘d7 So far all the moves have been normal and typical for the Smith–Morra gambit.

10.♞e1?! This looks like a novelty that is unlikely to attract many followers.

10.♞d1 is where the king’s rook usually belongs in the Morra.

10...b4 11.♖a4 White may also try 11.♗d5!? exd5 12.♙xd5 ♖a7 13.♗d4 but it’s a different story.



11...e5?? Simply unbelievable! After the natural 11...♗g6 Black doesn’t have much to worry about. 12.♞c4! The f7-pawn can be defended only at a cost of a piece so Black decided to resign. 1-0

Returning to high quality games, the most impressive one was played in round 5.

**Miller,David (2284) – Villavieja,Butch (2182) [B99]**  
2015 Alberta Open (5.3), 12.10.2015

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 ♗bd7 8.♞f3 ♞c7 9.0-0-0 ♙e7 10.♙d3 b5 11.♞he1 h6 By far the most popular move is 11...♙b7. I do not intend to begin a theoretical discussion here but will note that the position is very promising for White. He has several candidate moves that all look good.

12.e5 ♙b7 13.♞h3 If this position occurs again, David may try 13.♗xe6!? fxe6 14.♙g6+ ♗f8 15.exf6 ♙xf3 16.fxe7+ ♗g8 17.♞xe6 ♙xd1 18.e8♞+ ♞xe8 19.♞xe8+ ♗f8 and will then decide how to get the queen back with the most interest.

13...dxe5 14.♗xe6 White must sacrifice. 14...fxe6 15.♙g6+ ♗d8? The king is going the wrong way.



15...♔f8 is significantly better. Black intends to meet 16.♖xe6 with 16...♖c4 when the position remains unclear.



16.♖xf6 gxf6 After this White finds a clear-cut way to finish the game quickly. Relatively best is 16...♖xe6 although Black's position remains unenviable after 17.♖xe6.

17.♖xe6 ♖c6 18.fxe5 fxe5 19.♖xe5 ♖g5+ 20.♔b1 ♔c8 21.♖c5 Black resigned as major material losses are inevitable. 1-0

On board 1 Cyril Nerubenko didn't equalize with White and allowed Dale Haessel to make a major step towards the title. Mike Zeggelaar played his worst game of the weekend as he was essentially losing to Robert Sasata after just 6 moves. Thus, Dale took sole possession of the first place after round 5.

In the last round FM Dale Haessel needed a draw to clinch the title along with a qualification spot for the 2016 Alberta Closed. He eventually achieved this goal after some suffering in a slightly worse endgame against David Miller.

Robert Sasata defeated Nicolas Haynes and thus managed to catch the leader. Both winners scored 5/6, Dale qualifying for the Alberta Closed according to the ACA tie-breaking system.

Belsar Valencia and David Miller finished with 4.5/6 and shared the third place. Both players could have done better as each of them lost a game in an unexpected fashion.

As advertized above, the last game of the weekend to finish featured the most interesting endgame of the tournament.

**Villavieja, Butch (2182) –  
Koneru, Nimai (1808) [B13]**  
2015 Alberta Open (6.5), 12.10.2015



Round 4: Future tournament winners FM Dale Haessel (White against Mike Zeggelaar on board 1) and Robert Sasata (Black against Robert Gardner on board 4)



Black has been pressing for quite some time and still has the right to play for a win despite reduced material.

62...♖xf4 An understandable decision in time pressure as Black's play becomes simple. Nevertheless, keeping the tension with a move like 62...♔c6!? should be preferred. 63.gxf4 ♔e6 64.♔g4 ♔d5 65.f5 This risky move was played too quickly.

Here White should spend more time and realize that the position after 65.♔f3 ♔c4 66.♔e4 ♔b3 67.♔d3 ♔xa4 68.♔c4 is a draw. Easier said that done, of course.

65...♔c4 66.f6? This natural advance loses. White can still draw with 66.♔f4 ♔b4 67.♔e5 ♔xa4 68.♔d6. For example, 68...♔b4 69.♔d5 ♔c3 70.♔c4

achieving essentially the same position as in the line above.

66...♔b3 Now White lacks a tempo to save the game. 67.♔c7 ♔xa4 68.♔f5 ♔b3 69.♔e6 a4 70.♔a6

Perhaps, the original plan was 70.♔d5 but Black has a relatively simple win: 70...a3 71.♔e7 a2 72.f7 ♖xe7 73.♔xe7 a1 ♖74.f8 ♖a3+ and the queens are off the board.

70...♔a3 71.♔d5 ♖f8 72.♔c7 a3 73.♔e6 a2?! A step in a wrong direction although Black is still winning. 73...♔h6 is the simplest probably forcing an immediate resignation.

74.♔xf8 a1 ♖75.♔d7 ♖d1+ 76.♔e6 ♖g4+ 77.♔e7 ♖e4+ 78.♔d6 ♖d4+ Black suddenly ran into difficulties.

Interestingly enough, pretty much the only winning idea is 78...♖e8! stopping the pawn. With the clock ticking Nimai couldn't find it but it's hard to blame him. I was watching the game live and I didn't see it either.

79.♔e7 ♖b4+ 80.♔e6 b5? 81.f7 Remarkably, the position is now drawn!

81...♖c4+ 82.♔e7 ♖h4+ 83.♔e6 ♖d8 84.f8 ♖xf8 85.♔xf8 b4 86.♔d7 ♔c4 87.♔b6+ ♔d3 88.♔d5 ½-½

Quite a turn of events! As I have noticed many times, when the amount of material on the board becomes so small, magical things start happening left and right...



## GM Alex Lenderman victorious at the 8th Calgary International

This year's edition of the traditional festival took place at the Calgary Chess Club on July 29-August 3. The tournament was organized as a 9-round Open Swiss with a total of 20 participants plus a substitute to make the number of players in every round even if necessary. The presence of four foreign grandmasters made IM norms possible.

The top seed GM Aleksandr Lenderman (USA) had a solid tournament and deservedly took the title with an undefeated score of 7.5/9. The three other grandmasters (Alexander Shabalov, Victor Mikhalevski and Michael Roiz) shared the second place with 6.5/9.

The best Albertans were FM Alex Yam and Daniel Kazmaier who tied for the fifth place with 5/9, along with IM Leon Piasetski and Michael Humphreys from Ontario. In round 7 Daniel registered the only GM scalp of the tournament.

### Shabalov, Alexander (2538) – Kazmaier, Daniel (2198) [A89]

8th Calgary International (7), 02.08.2015

1.♠f3 d6 2.d4 f5 3.g3 ♠f6 4.♙g2 g6 5.c4 ♙g7 6.♠c3 0-0 7.0-0 ♠c6 8.d5 One of the main lines of the Leningrad Dutch is on the board. 8...♠a5 9.♗d3 White protects the c4-pawn and threatens to trap the black knight with 10.b4. 9...c5 The usual reply. 9...e5!? is also possible. 10.♙d2 a6 11.♠g5 b5?! A dubious looking novelty that somehow worked well in this game. So far everybody has prepared the queenside expansion with 11...♗b8. 12.b3? Too timid. White should just go ahead and grab the pawn: 12.cxb5 axb5 13.♠xb5 etc. Black has no real compensation.

12...♠g4 Immediate 12...b4 is good.

13.f4 An interesting decision. The exchange sacrifice looks dubious but White may actually be able to get full compensation. Nevertheless, 13.cxb5 is still the right continuation.

13...b4 14.♠a4 ♙xa1 15.♗xa1 White's main plan is to create threats along the a1-h8 diagonal. He will also be looking for a good moment to break in the center with e2-e4. 15...♠f6 16.♗e1 ♗c7 17.♙c1 Here and later the computer advocates the central breakthrough 17.e4!? For example, 17...fxe4



8th Calgary International, Round 7. Foreground: GM Alexander Shabalov – Daniel Kazmaier. Background: GM Aleksandr Lenderman – GM Michael Roiz.

18.♙xe4 ♠xe4 19.♗xe4 with enough compensation for the exchange.

17...♙d7 18.♙b2 ♗ae8 19.h3 ♙xa4 20.bxa4 White should have thrown in 20.♠e6! 20...♗d7 21.e4? Unfortunately, the worst possible timing for this break. 21.♠e6!? is still relatively best. White can follow up with g3-g4.



21...♗xa4! The queen excursion looks risky but Black must have calculated the following sequence precisely. 22.exf5 ♗xa2! 23.♗e2 ♠xc4! The dormant knight joins the game just in time. 23...♗xc4? is wrong: 24.♗e6+ ♠h8 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.♗g4 and Black has to sacrifice a lot of material to prevent the white queen from coming to h7.

24.♗e6+ ♠h8! The right square for the king. 24...♠g7? 25.♙xf6+ ♗xf6 26.♗d7 and White wins.

25.♙a1 What else? 25.♙xf6+ can be answered by 25...exf6! 25...b3 26.♙c3

The best try is 26.♠xh7!? when Black has to tread carefully. For example, 26...b2 27.♙xb2 ♗xb2 28.♠xf8 ♗xf8 29.fxg6 and the position is still not so clear.

26...♗c2 27.♠xh7 One move too late. 27...♗xc3 28.♠xf8 ♗xf8 In comparison with the line above Black's b-pawn is still on the board. The game is essentially over. 29.fxg6 ♠g8 30.♠h2 ♗f6 31.♗e4 ♗c2 32.♗f3 ♗xg6 33.♗e2 ♠d2 34.♗h5+ ♗h6 35.♗g5 ♗h7 36.f5 b2 0-1

Round 7 also featured a very interesting rook endgame by FM Alex Yam.

### Yam, Alex (2306) –

### Humphreys, Michael (2207) [B14]

8th Calgary International (7), 02.08.2015



Looking at the diagram it's hard to imagine that White can dream of any-



thing more than a draw. 41.♖c2!? The time control has passed and White decides to activate his second rook at a cost of another pawn. 41...♖b4 42.♖cc8 ♖xb5? Black must not be in a rush to capture this pawn. Instead, he should improve his position on the kingside: 42...g5 Then 43.♖f8+ may be answered by 43...♗g6 44.♖g8+ ♗h5! 43.♖f8+ ♗g7 44.♖g8+ ♗f6 45.f4! An excellent resource. Suddenly, Black must play precisely. 45...♖d6?

Correct is 45...♖e3+ clearing the e6-square for the king with a tempo. For example, 46.♗h4 g5+ 47.fxg5+ hxg5+ 48.♖xg5 ♖b4+ 49.♗h5 e6 and Black's winning hopes are alive.

46.♖bf8+ ♗e6 47.♖xg6+ ♗d7 48.♖xd6+ ♗xd6 49.♖h8 ♖c5 50.♖xh6+ e6 Now the game should be drawn but the adventures are far from being over. 51.♗h4 b5 52.g4 fxg4 53.hxg4 ♗e7 Black must be playing for a draw now. Therefore, 53...♖c1 looks the simplest. 54.♖h7+ ♗f6 55.♖b7 ♖c4 56.♗h5 ♖xf4 57.g5+ ♗e5 58.♖xb5+ ♗d6 This position is a tablebase draw but White has a right to test his opponent.

59.♖b7 e5 60.g6 ♖f1 61.g7 ♖h1+ 62.♗g6 ♖g1+ 63.♗f7 The critical position of the endgame.



63...♗c5? This natural move loses! The only way to draw is 63...♖f1+! 64.♗e8 ♖g1 If White tries 65.♗f8 then 65...♗c5 is good enough to split the point. Here the approach from the game 66.♖b1?? doesn't work because of 66...♖xb1 67.g8 ♖b8+ (that's why the white king had to be lured to the eighth rank).

64.♖b1! ♖xb1 After 64...♖g2 65.g8 ♖xg8 66.♗xg8 e4 67.♗f7 ♗d4 68.♗e6 e3 69.♗f5 ♗d3 70.♗f4 e2 71.♗f3 ♗d2 72.♗f2 Black lacks exactly one tempo

to save the game.

65.g8 ♖b6 This type of endgame has a reputation of being hard to win but this time everything goes smoothly for White. 66.♖g1+ ♗c6 67.♗e6 e4 68.♖d4 ♗c7+ 69.♗e5 ♖c6 70.♗xe4 ♖d6 71.♖a7+ ♗d8 72.♗e5 ♖g6 73.♖b7 ♖h6 74.♖b3 ♖a6 75.♖b4 I am not sure that the end of the game was recorded properly as 75.♖d3+ wins immediately. 75...♖c6 76.♖b8+ ♗d7 77.♖b7+ ♖c7 78.♖b5+ ♗e7 79.♖b4+ ♗d8 80.♗d6 ♖c8 81.♖h4+ 1-0

Gardner, Robert (2138) –

Yam, Alex (2305) [A52]

8th Calgary International (2), 30.07.2015



Black has a strong initiative that is worth more than a pawn. 14...♗xe3? A little too early. Somewhat surprisingly, the best move is 14...♖f6! White has no way of exploiting Black's awkwardly placed pieces.

15.fxe3 d5? The losing move. Correct is 15...♖xe3+ keeping the enemy king in the center. The position remains unclear. 16.0-0! ♖xe3+ 17.♖f2 Black is simply down a piece for not much at all. 17...♗f3+ 18.gxf3 ♖g5+ 19.♗h1 ♖xf5 20.♗xd5 ♖ae6 A desperate try that suddenly works. 21.♗xc7 ♖e2 22.♖h4+ ♗g8 23.♗xe8 ♖xb2 White has a ton of winning moves. 24.♖d4?? but not this one. 24...♖xh2+! A draw was agreed here as White can simply take the rook and allow a perpetual check. In fact, he can actually give the following forced variation a try: 25.♗g1 ♖h1+ 26.♗f2 ♖h2+ 27.♗e1 ♖e6+ 28.♖e4 ♖h6 29.♖d1 ♗f5 30.♖e7 ♗d3 31.♖g1 ♖h4+ 32.♖xh4 ♖e2+ 33.♗f1 ♖d2+ and it is only now that the perpetual check is unavoidable. ½-½

The most incredible save of the festival!

Ng, Gary (2194) –

Shabalov, Alexander (2538) [A00]

8th Calgary International (2), 30.07.2015



Black just launched a dangerous looking kingside attack so White decides to clarify matters. 20.♗xd5 The computer advocates 20.♖b3 but after 20...♖e6 it's unclear what to do next.

20...♗xd5 21.♖c7 ♖e8?! Black can actually force the white queen back by 21...♖d7! since 22.♖xb6 runs into 22...♖a8! followed by ♖b7 trapping the queen. 22.♖xb6 f4 23.♖xa5?!

This is way too provocative. The computer suggests 23.♗h1!? getting ready for 23...f3? 24.♖g1! defending.

23...f3 24.g3? The losing move.

Remarkably, the only way to continue is 24.g4! White tries to buy enough time to play ♗h1 and ♖g1. The computer then recommends 24...♗c4! 25.♖xc4 ♖e6 26.h3 ♖xc4 with a highly unbalanced position and chances for both sides.

24...♖a8 25.♖e1 ♖f6 It is all over now.

26.g4 ♖h6 27.♗h1 ♖e7 0-1

## Banff Chess Club

Pioneer Room, 107 Bear St.

The new club meets  
every Thursday at 7 pm.

[banffchess.com](http://banffchess.com)



## 21st Medicine Hat Open

Report by Dr. William P. Taylor

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Medicine "OPEN" (Fall) Chess Tournament took place on another sunny, warm, "Fall" weekend. We are grateful for the continued blessing of warm weather for this event, now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year.

This year the Medicine Hat Chess Club (MHCC) was pleased to welcome **16** players (a slight decrease compared to 2014), including 6 people who were first time participants. It was a pleasure to welcome three "new" Junior chess players (Jeff Wang, Chenxi Wu, and Piaoyi Wu), all from Calgary. They came accompanied by Mr. Guoliang Wu. Piaoyi age 7 (and in Grade 2) became the youngest player ever to grace our tournament with his presence. He distinguished himself well during the event! I was also pleased to welcome back Dr. Mark Anderson (a Political Science Educator and chess organizer) from Browning, Montana. Mark is very active in promoting chess to the Indian (Blackfoot) community in Montana, and has recently had publications detailing his work. He very kindly shared these with me. Also new to our tournament were Roland Schech, a Chemical Engineer from St. Albert; Randy Slaby, a Chartered Accountant and Farmer(!) from Kyle, Saskatchewan; and Chris Jonker, a college student here in Medicine Hat. Our ever faithful Edmonton participants, John Quiring and Steve Panteluk were in attendance. This year saw another new first time winner, **Tim Pradzinski**, from Grande Prairie, who claimed 1<sup>st</sup> place. He finished with a score of **4/5**, and was tied with **Jeff Wang**. He was awarded first place on ACA tie-break criteria. Tied for third place were **Dr. Mark Anderson and Steve Panteluk** with **3.5/5**.

There was a two-way tie for first place in the Under 1650 (lower) section, shared by **Dr. Paul Viminiz and Roland Schech**, both with **2.5/5**. Tied for third place in the under 1650 (lower) section with a score of **2/5** were **Chris Jonker and Kurt Berndtsson**. The top four performers in the Top (> 1650) section and top four performers in the Under 1650 (lower) section were awarded prizes consisting of either cash and/or merchandise. All entry fees minus the requisite deduction for ACA dues were returned as cash prizes. These were supplemented with merchandise prizes for several participants.

True to tradition, all tournament participants were treated to the usual Medicine Hat and "Taylor-made" hospitality. My wife, Margaret, continues to make this a reality. She coordinated the Saturday Night drinks and dessert (which this year offered a huge slab of carrot cake from the Cheesecake Café, yummy pumpkin chocolate chip cookies, frozen mixed berries, ice cream, and whipped cream. Complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate, a variety of soft drinks, assorted muffins, and a plentitude of Werther's® soft and hard candies, chocolate covered raisins, Macintosh® toffee, and wine gums were offered up. All of this came courtesy of the generous support of **47** sponsors.

Your intrepid Tournament Organizer/Tournament Director once again presented, and cajoled others to share, jokes with the assembled multitude. This tradition, started in 2009, will continue as "Laughter, truly is the best medicine" (although Dr. Paul Viminiz would have you believe otherwise!!). Thank you to all who dignified my request to promote levity.

In addition to the Saturday night "**Drinks and Dessert**" social (for the fourteenth consecutive year!), we once again offered "**Lunch for a Buck**" on Sunday, for the 18<sup>th</sup> straight year. My wife (Margaret) provided thick, creamy potato cheddar soup (which seemed to go over very well last year), assorted meat and cheese slices, lettuce, tomatoes, two types of buns, and garnishes so that people could make their own sandwiches. Thanks to our sponsors, **\$155.00** was injected into the tournament prize fund, over and above the entry fees. This is the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year that our prize fund has exceeded the value of our entry fees. Additionally, there were four draws for door prizes. With the anticipated ongoing support of our many sponsors, and the new sponsors that I recruit, I will continue to offer all of these "perks" and enhancements next year.

Medicine Hat (and Canada's) unique **GIANT CHESS SET Project** enjoyed a tenth full season. We again partnered with the CORE Association in hiring two "**Chess Educators/Civic Ambassadors**" (Russel Henderson and Jocelyn Neilsen) who worked for our Project from May 22<sup>nd</sup> – August 29<sup>th</sup>. They were joined by two CORE Association employees, Mr. Brian Crane and Mr. Brayden Marchand. I again hosted a Jazz event at the GIANT CHESS SET, featuring 5 local musicians

## Medicine Hat Chess Club

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(including myself) and Dr. Peter Curtis (a U.S. based Jazz guitarist). Between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> rounds, Roland Schech and Tim Pradzinski dropped down to the GIANT CHESS SET to play a game of chess. Regrettably, the GIANT CHESS Pieces were in their secure (locked) storage cupboard.

I continue to encourage and challenge other tournament committees/TDs elsewhere, to offer similar enhancements at their Chess tournaments. I did have a lengthy conversation with Guoliang Wu (of Calgary) about what I do to enhance offerings of the Annual MHO. He appeared to be highly appreciative of this conversation. Hopefully he will carry this knowledge and his enthusiasm forward to Calgary. I know that such enhancements would not be possible, without the support of sponsors. As stated many times before, (and I will continue to repeat myself like a broken record!), SPONSORSHIP MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE!! Please feel free to contact me if you want some ideas on how to go about it. It's not really that difficult. Until next year ...

## 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](mailto:swp@shaw.ca)





## 2015 Fort McMurray Open

This year's edition of the event continued the tradition established in 2013. The head organizer Jina Burn with the help of a large group of volunteers once again did an outstanding job in putting everything together. The previous two years raised the bar very highly but this year's tournament was organized just as well and surpassed the expectations of the participants. For example, I myself felt really spoiled by the abundance of complimentary food that could be grabbed pretty much any time. The venue was the same as in 2014 although the playing hall was different. The top three seeds were myself, Rob "Rocket" Gardner and Vlad Rekhson. Local players were rated lower but I knew that their ratings were not necessarily a true indicator of their strength. In fact, I expected most of them to be underrated and prepared for tough games.

For example, I got a pretty good match in round 2. My opponent played well... until he walked into a diabolic trap.

**Pechenkin, Vladimir (2385) – Abad, Arden Troy G. (1788) [A29]**  
2015 Fort McMurray Open (2), 04.07.2015



So far the game has developed normally. White has pressure on the queenside and intends to increase it by putting the bishop on f4. Black seeks his chances on the kingside.

**27...♘d5?** This looks like a creative way to prevent Bf4 as White can't take the knight. Or can he?

**28.exd5!!** It turns out that the capture is not only possible but also ends the game immediately. **28...♞xe1 29.♙e3** Black resigned in view of the following line: **29.♙e3 ♞a5 30.♙d2 ♞xa3 31.♙b4** and the queen is trapped. **1-0**



Round 2 of the 2015 Fort McMurray Open. Foreground: Vlad Rekhson – Len Steele and Ico van den Born – Mark Smith. White won both games.

After three rounds of play the "Rocket" was leading with a perfect score. The two rating favorites clashed in round 4.

**Pechenkin, Vladimir (2385) – Gardner, Robert (2220) [A25]**  
2015 Fort McMurray Open (4), 05.07.2015

**1.c4 e5 2.g3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.d3 ♗ge7 6.e3 d6 7.♗ge2 ♙e6 8.♘d5 ♞d7 9.♗ec3 ♘d8 10.♗xe7 ♞xe7 11.♙d2** White's setup is not very impressive but the position remains about equal. **11...c6 12.b4 0-0 13.♞c1 f5 14.0-0 g5 15.f4 e4?** The complications initiated by this break work in White's favor as ♞a8 and ♘d8 are too far from action. **16.dxe4 ♙xc4 17.♞e1 fxe4 18.♗xe4 d5 19.♗xg5 h6 20.♗f3 ♙xa2 21.♞c2 ♙c4 22.e4**



The game is going to open up, and

White's pieces are better prepared for that. Black's position is critical.

**22...♞f7 23. exd5 ♙xd5 24.♗e5 ♞e6? 24...♙xe5 25.♞xe5 ♙xg2 26.♙xg2 ♗e6** is more tenacious.

**25.♗g6 ♙d4+ 26.♙h1 ♙xg2+ 27.♙xg2 ♞d5+ 28.♞e4** Black's lag in development essentially decides the outcome of the game. **28...♞xe4+ Or 28...♞f7 29.♗e7+ ♞xe7 30.♞xd5+ cxd5 31.♞xe7**

**29.♞xe4 ♞f6 30.f5** The most incisive continuation. **30...c5 31.♗e7+ ♙f7 32. bxc5 ♙b2 33.♞c2 ♙a3 34.g4 ♞a6** Black managed to avoid major material losses. Nevertheless, White is up a pawn and his superior piece coordination makes his advantage decisive. Black plays for tactical tricks trying to utilize his advantage on the clock.

**35.♗d5 ♞c8 36.♙e3 ♙f8 37.h4 ♗f7 38.g5 hxg5 39.hxg5 ♙d6 40.♗e7 ♞c7 41.f6 b6 42.♗g6+ ♞h7 43.♙g8 ♙e6+ 1-0**

Thus, after round 4 Vlad Rekhson and me were leading the tournament with 3.5/4. The last round turned out to be tough for the leaders. On board 2 the "Rocket" played with great energy and defeated Vlad. On board 1 I had black pieces against Ico van den Born and was very lucky to get away with a draw. When the dust finally settled, it was Rob Gardner



and me on top of the standings with 4/5. Five other players finished with 3.5/5. In conclusion, the ACA would like to thank the following sponsors who made the event possible.

*The Bouchier Group* – 1st place (\$1,500)

*Nexen* – 2nd place (\$1,000)

*LaPraire Crane* – 3rd place (\$600)

*Campbell's Music* – Best U2200 (\$450)

*A.P.E Maintenance* – Best U2000 (\$300)

*APEGA* – Best U1800 (\$250)

*Snow White Productions* – U1600 (\$200)

*Fort McMurray Chess Club* – U1400 (\$150)

*ABG63 Ltd Groundskeeping* – U1200 (\$100)

It has been already decided that the 2016 edition of the tournament will be a premium event on the ACA calendar held over the long weekend of July 1-3, 2016.

## Arnold McKay victorious at the Alberta Seniors Championship

The 2015 edition of the event took place at the Edmonton Chess Club on April 25-26. The tournament was held in a single 50+ section, the winner receiving a \$1,000 travel grant from the ACA to participate in the 2015 Canadian Seniors Championship. The rating favorites Brad Willis and Sardul Purewal started the tournament with a win. Their draw in round 2 allowed the third seed Arnold McKay to grab the lead with a perfect score. In round 3 Brad was completely winning against Leonard Relling but suddenly walked into a checkmate. The key matchup of round 4 Purewal – McKay ended in a draw. Thus, both of them were leading before the last round with 3/4. In round 5 Sardul played Terry Seehagen and barely escaped with a draw.

**Seehagen, Terry (1726) – Purewal, Sardul (1964) [B01]**  
2015 Alberta Seniors (5), 26.04.2015



Last round of the Alberta Seniors Championship: Terry Seehagen – Sardul Purewal

White's attack is going to be faster.

**19.h5 f6 20.♖g1 ♔h8 21.g6! ♜g8**  
21...h6 runs into 22.♗xh6 gxh6 23.g7+ ♔h7 24.♜g6 then the white queen will attack the h6-pawn with a decisive penetration. **22.gxh7 ♔xh7 23.♗h4 g5 24.hxg6+ ♔g7 25.♕d2** Alas.

The computer finds the following beautiful checkmate: **25.♗h6+ ♔xh6 26.♗f5+ exf5 27.♖h5+ ♔xh5 28.♖h3# 25...♖h8 26.♖h3 f5 27.♕g5 ♜ae8 28.f4 ♗f6 29.♜gh1 ♗g4** Unfortunately, here Terry lost faith in his attack and agreed to a draw. ½-½

Arnold played Gerald Aspler with the white pieces and made no mistake. The win allowed Arnold McKay to finish clear first (4/5) and to take the title. Sardul fell half a point short this time, while the third place went to Terry Seehagen (3/5).

## WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement is the 2015 AB Women's Champion

Agnieszka defeated Michelle Mo in a two-game match to claim the title.

## Over/Under 1800: FM Dale Haessel is invincible

This annual event was held at the Calgary Chess Club on September 5-6 and featured two sections, as usual. The Over 1800 Sec-

tion attracted a fairly strong roster of players but the battle for the first place was not even close. The winner FM Dale Haessel was actually not the rating favorite but it was him who stayed invincible during the weekend. Dale finished the tournament with a perfect score of 5/5, a whole point ahead of the top seed Daniel Kazmaier. The third place went to Severo Caluza from British Columbia, who played his first tournament in Alberta.

The Under 1800 Section was won by a new player Stephen Moreau with a score of 4/5. Zachary Schlegel and Mike Scholz tied for second with 3.5/5.

## Calgary Chess Club



**274 3359 27th St. NE**  
**Tuesdays, Thursdays**  
**from 7 p.m.**

**Saturday Junior program**  
**1-4pm**

**Lessons available**  
[www.calgarychess.com](http://www.calgarychess.com)



# BEYOND ALBERTA

## 2015 Canadian Closed

The most important national tournament of the year took place in Guelph (Ontario), July 10-16. The Canadian Closed Championship was organized for the first time since 2012 and attracted 4 players residing in Alberta: IM Richard Wang (2015 AB Closed champion), FM Alex Yam (2014 AB Closed champion), FM Dale Haessel and Diwen Shi. GM Eric Hansen also participated and tied for first with IMs Tomas Krnan and Leonid Gerzhoy. Tomas was declared champion and later represented Canada at the World Cup in Baku.

Richard achieved the best result among the Albertans (6/9) finishing just half a point behind the winners. Alex had a decent tournament and scored 5/9. Diwen ended up with 4/9 but gained a few rating points. I have decided to include his round 3 end-game in this report as it featured a couple of crazy turns of events.

**Shi, Diwen (2214) –  
Chen, Richard (2297) [C01]**

2015 Canadian Closed (3), 11.07.2015



The position is objectively equal. However, Black started grabbing White's queenside pawns underestimating the opponent's play on the kingside.

**27...♟xc2? 28.♟h6 ♟xa3 29.♟xf6 ♟e7 30.♟h6 ♟c4 31.f6?** White must have been satisfied with a draw at this point. Otherwise, he would have found 31. ♟h5! ♟xh5+ 32.♟xh5 when the f-pawn decides the game in his favor. For example, 32...♟e8 33.♟g4 a5 34.f6 etc. **31...♟e8?** Black must have been play-

ing for a win. Otherwise, he would have taken the draw: 31...♟d2+ 32.♟f2 ♟e4+ with a repetition.

**32.♟h7?** Same problem. 32.♟h5 is still winning. **32...♟d2+ 33.♟f2 ♟e4+ 34.♟f3 ♟f8** Correct. The insertion of a couple of moves gives Black the right to play for a win. **35.♟e5 a5 36.♟f5?** This natural continuation runs into a crushing blow:

**36...♟xf6! 37.♟xf6 ♟g6!** The point. **38.♟xg6 ♟xf6+ 39.♟f5 ♟xf5+ 40.♟g4 ♟f2 41.g3 ♟c2 42.♟xg5 ♟xc3 43.g4**



Can you believe that White managed to get a full point out of this position?

**43...♟c4?** A wrong approach. Black doesn't need more passed pawns to win. Correct is 43...a4 44.♟f4 a3 45. ♟h1 a2 46.♟a1 ♟c2 47.g5 b5 etc.

**44.♟f6 ♟xd4 45.g5 ♟g4?** Now the position is drawn, remarkably.

Black can still get a full point by 45...♟f4+ 46.♟e5 ♟g4 gaining a crucial tempo with the help of a check.

**46.g6 b5** Black keeps on playing for a win but he should already be thinking about a draw.

The simplest way is 46...a4 with a sample line 47.♟h5 ♟a7 48.♟xd5 ♟b6 49.g7 a3 50.♟d3 a2 51.♟a3 ♟f4+ 52.♟g6 ♟g4+ and a repetition is in order.

**47.♟h5 ♟xg6+** Probably the best decision. **48.♟xg6 ♟b7** Black is not obligated to give up one of his pawns and can try 48...c6!? 49.♟f6 a4 50.♟e5 ♟c7 51.♟d4 ♟b6 with a very interesting position.

**49.♟xd5 c6** This is actually a draw according to the tablebases. **50.♟d1**

**b4 51.♟f5 ♟b6 52.♟e4 ♟b5?**

52...a4! is the only way to save half a point but don't ask me why.

**53.♟d3!** The only but sufficient move. Diwen plays the rest of the game precisely and never lets the win slip away.

**53...c5 54.♟c2 a4 55.♟d8 c4 56.♟b8+ ♟c5 57.♟c8+ ♟b5 58.♟b8+ ♟c5 59.♟b2 c3+ 60.♟c2 ♟c4 61.♟c8+ ♟b5 62. ♟a8 a3 63.♟b3 ♟b6 64.♟b8+ ♟c5 65. ♟xb4 1-0**

## 2015 Canadian Seniors

The sixth annual national Seniors championship took place in Kitchener (Ontario), July 31 – August 3. Alberta was represented in the 65+ age group by the 2015 AB Seniors champion Arnold McKay. His brief tournament report is presented below.

*Total immersion in chess for 3½ days with a bit of time left over to enjoy the tastes and scenery of Kitchener, Ontario: that was my experience in August while attending the 65+ Canadian Seniors Chess Championship. My taking part in that event was prompted by the ACA contributing (for a first place finish at the Alberta Seniors Championship in April) \$1,000 towards actual expenses. This was a first for me – no byes requested or taken for the 7-round tournament. I came home with 3.5 points: 2 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses (to Nava Starr – cowinner of the tournament – and to W. Doubleday).*

*I swim competitively and am now certain that the physical exertion of a chess tournament such as this outweighs the exertion required for any swim meet I have ever been in. Chess is, in my opinion, truly a sport – not just a game.*

*The Kitchener chess festival was quite well run and had a large number of participants ranging from the junior to the most senior levels.*

*Thanks again ACA... I won't need a cash incentive to enter next year's Seniors Championship which is to be held in BC.*

I will only add that the other co-winner was Sasha Starr (5/7), while William Doubleday tied for third with Ruperto Frilles (4.5/7). Arnold finished in a tie for the eighth place out of 15 participants.

## 2016 Alberta Active Championship

**Date:** February 6, 2016

**Venue:** Red Deer Lodge

**Address:** 4311 49 Ave, Red Deer, AB T4N 5Y4

**Organizer:** Alexey Taranik, email: [taranik1978@yahoo.ca](mailto:taranik1978@yahoo.ca)

**Tournament Director:** TBD

**Tournament format:** 5-round Swiss, CFC Active Rated

**Time control:** Game in 25 minutes with a 5-second increment

**On-Site Registration:** Saturday, February 6, 11:15-11:45 am

**Estimated round times:** 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

There will be a 1-hour break after round 3.

Awards ceremony will commence immediately after round 5.

**Entry fees:** \$20 for adults, \$15 for juniors (U20) and women.  
Free entry for GM/IM/FM.

CFC Membership is required and may be purchased on site.

Annual membership is \$43 for adults, \$28 for juniors.

CFC tournament membership is \$13 for adults, \$7 for juniors.

**Prize fund:** Sum of entry fees less ACA dues of \$3 per player.

**Byes:** Up to two half-point byes are allowed in rounds 1-4 if requested before the start of round 1.

**Coffee and tea** will be provided.

**Tournament Website:** <http://www.albertachess.org/2016AAC.html>



This tournament is a  
**Road Warrior**  
event



**Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association**

### TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As of December 23, 2015

1	Hansen, Eric	2637
2	Porper, Edward	2468
3	Wang, Richard	2418
4	Yam, Alex	2378
5	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2371
6	Arruebarrena, Rafael	2352
7	Banerjee, Bitan	2327
8	Matras-Clement, Agnieszka	2327
9	Valencia, Belsar	2327
10	Ng, Gary	2311
11	Haessel, Dale	2304
12	Kazmaier, Daniel	2281
13	Findlay, Ian	2275
14	Haynes, Nicolas	2274
15	Gardner, Robert J.	2269
16	Miller, David	2239
17	Grumic, Sasa	2227
18	Shi, Diwen	2220
19	Rekhson, Vladislav	2211
20	Robichaud, Martin	2194
21	Boehmer, Kris	2182
22	Nguyen, Kim	2122
23	Cheng, Louis	2115
24	Hughey, Micah	2114
25	Gold, Itohan	2108
26	Zeggelaar, Mike	2103
27	Kostadinov, Georgi	2080
28	Tran-Ly, Tristan	2079
29	Abdelrhman, Hamid	2075
30	Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz	2066
31	Adagha, Ovo	2034
32	Yearwood, Roy	2018
33	Briones, Dante	2012
34	Daniluk, Jim	1998
35	Malek, Omid	1988
36	Thiel, Rodney	1987
37	Wihnon, Jason	1980
38	Purewal, Sardul	1977
39	Kohestani, Rauf	1963
40	Razzaq, Ali	1963

### TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

As of December 1, 2015

1	GM Hansen, Eric	2577
2	IM Porper, Edward	2411
3	IM Wang, Richard	2341
4	Banerjee, Bitan	2326
5	FM Pechenkin, Vladimir	2315
6	FM Yam, Alex	2294
7	Arruebarrena, Rafael	2264
8	FM Haessel, Dale	2262
9	FM Findlay, Ian	2262
10	Valencia, Belsar	2245



## 2016 ACA Tournament Schedule

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

[www.albertachess.org/](http://www.albertachess.org/)

Tournaments marked with a star are eligible for

**Road Warrior** Points



Date	Event	Organizer	Location
Jan 8-10	Schleinich Memorial*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Jan 23	Lethbridge Youth Ch.	Peter Davis-Imhof	Lethbridge
Jan 30	Calgary Youth Ch.	Guoliang Wu	Calgary
Jan 30-31	Edmonton Seniors Ch.	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton
Feb 6	AB Active Championship*	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer
Feb 20-21	AB Youth Championship	Guoliang Wu	Calgary
Feb 20-21	University Battle of AB*	U of A Chess Club	Edmonton
Feb 27-28	Northern AB Open*	Leah Hughey	Edmonton
Mar 12-13	March of Kings*	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Mar 26-28	AB Closed/Reserves*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Apr-May	Regional Schools Ch.	Multiple	Multiple
Apr 2-3	Lethbridge Open*	Jerry Mikusek	Lethbridge
Apr 16-17	Red Deer Open*	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer
Apr 23-24	AB Seniors Championship	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Apr 30-May 1	Edmonton Intl. Qualifier*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
May 21-22	33rd Trumpeter Classic*	Wade Caughlin	Grande Prairie
May 28	AB Schools Championship	TBD	Edmonton
Jun 4-5	Calgary Intl. Qualifier*	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary
Jun 18-26	11th Edmonton Intl.*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Jun 24-26	11th Edmonton Intl. Open*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Jul 1-3	Fort McMurray Open*	Jina Burn	Ft. McMurray
Jul 1-3	AB Women's Championship	Jina Burn	Ft. McMurray
Jul 27-Aug 1	9th Calgary International*	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary
Aug 27-28	Over/Under 1800*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Sep 10	Battle of AB	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer
Sep 17-18	Calgary Jr. Regional	Guoliang Wu	Calgary
Sep 24-25	22nd Medicine Hat Open*	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 1-2	Edmonton Jr. Regional	TBD	Edmonton
Oct 8-10	Alberta Open*	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Oct 28-30	Edmonton Fall Sectional*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Nov 11-13	Banff Open*	Ian Findlay	Banff
Nov 19-20	AB Jr. Championship	TBD	Edmonton
Nov 26-27	Southern AB Open*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary
Dec 10-11	WBX Team Tournament*	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton

## Road Warrior Update



The Road Warrior competition rewards players who participate in open ACA events with points based on the distance of their travel. For example, if you travel from Edmonton to Calgary, 3 points are awarded for travel. A trip from Grande Prairie to Edmonton will earn you 4.5 points. An additional point is awarded to all the tournament participants.

In 2015, a total of 189 Albertans took part in the open ACA events eligible for Road Warrior points.

The prizes in 2015 were distributed as follows:

1st: \$200 – Kim Nguyen (Calgary)

2nd: \$100 – Mohamad Fellah (Calgary)

3rd: \$50 – David Miller (Edmonton/Grande Prairie)

A special draw prize of \$150 will be awarded to one player who travelled to at least two open ACA events outside their region (one hour of travel or more). The draw will take place at the first ACA event of 2016, the John Schleinich Memorial.

Full details and regulations can be found at: [www.albertachess.org/Road\\_Warrior.html](http://www.albertachess.org/Road_Warrior.html)

## 2015 Final Standings

1	Kim Nguyen	Calgary	39.0
2	Mohamad Fellah	Calgary	30.5
3	David Miller	Edmonton/GP	28.0
4	Bhavik Dave	Calgary	24.0
5	Vladislav Rekhson	Calgary	23.5
6	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	23.5
7	Chris White	La Crete	22.5
8	Dale Haessel	Calgary	22.0
9	Steven Panteluk	Spruce Grove	20.5
10	John Quiring	Edmonton	20.5
11	Dustin Koperski	Edmonton	19.0
12	Roland Schech	St. Albert	18.5
13	Chenxi Wu	Calgary	16.5
14	Suresh Kadavil	Edmonton	15.5

<b>Airdrie Chess Club</b> Airdrie Public Library 111 304 Main Street Contact: Larry Besplug (president) email: <a href="mailto:besplug@shaw.ca">besplug@shaw.ca</a> or Dennis Young: <a href="mailto:panaspor@hotmail.com">panaspor@hotmail.com</a>	<b>La Crete Chess Club</b> Contact: Chris White Phone or Text: (780) 821-0044 (Cell) Email: <a href="mailto:cwnlca@gmail.com">cwnlca@gmail.com</a>
<b>Calgary Chess Club</b> 274 3359 27th St. NE Parma Tech Centre, North Building Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday from 12:30 to 5 pm. phone: 403.264.9498 website: <a href="http://www.calgarychess.com">www.calgarychess.com</a>	<b>Lethbridge Chess Club</b> Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South (on the second floor in the games room) 6:00pm until 9 or 10pm <a href="http://www.lethbridgechess.ca">www.lethbridgechess.ca</a> Contact: Paul Viminitz <a href="mailto:vimip0@uleth.ca">vimip0@uleth.ca</a>
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<b>Grande Prairie Chess Club</b> Contact Tim Pradzinski phone: 780.518.2281 email: <a href="mailto:database@telusplanet.net">database@telusplanet.net</a> website: <a href="http://www.gpchessclub.com">www.gpchessclub.com</a>	<b>Medicine Hat Chess Club</b> 826 - 11th St. S.E. Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor phone: 403.526.5484 email: <a href="mailto:taylormw@shaw.ca">taylormw@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Fort McMurray Chess Club</b> 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: <a href="mailto:swp@shaw">swp@shaw</a>	<b>Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club</b> 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: <a href="mailto:taylormw@shaw.ca">taylormw@shaw.ca</a>
<b>University of Alberta</b> All skill levels welcome to attend! Blitz once each month in CAB 373 or 369 Email <a href="mailto:uachess@ualberta.ca">uachess@ualberta.ca</a> for info <a href="http://uachess.wikifoundry.com/">http://uachess.wikifoundry.com/</a>	<b>Sherwood Park</b> Strathcona County Library, 2nd Floor Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to closing Contact: Les Jones phone: 780.467.7393
<b>Lethbridge Junior Chess</b> 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: <a href="http://www.famcentre.ca/">http://www.famcentre.ca/</a> Contact: Kent Karapita email: <a href="mailto:kentkarapita@hotmail.com">kentkarapita@hotmail.com</a> or Peter Davis-Imhof: email: <a href="mailto:peter.davisimhof@gmail.com">peter.davisimhof@gmail.com</a>	<b>Wainwright Chess Club</b> Showtime Video 701-10 Main St. Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact: Allen Tinio phone: 780.842.4123 email: <a href="mailto:amtinio@telus.net">amtinio@telus.net</a>
<b>Red Deer Chess Club</b> Contact: Alexey Taranik phone: 403-872-1062 email: <a href="mailto:taranik1978@yahoo.ca">taranik1978@yahoo.ca</a>	

## Edmonton Chess Club

#204, 10840-124 St.

# ECC

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**Website**

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## Calgary Chess Club



**274 3359 27th St. NE**

**Tuesdays, Thursdays**

**from 7 p.m.**

**Saturday Junior program**

**10 am-4pm**

**Lessons available**

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## 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](mailto:swp@shaw.ca)

