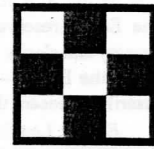


ALBERTA CHESS REPORT



A Newsletter Published by the Alberta Chess Association
January 1995 Vol. 20 No. 1

1994 Canadian Closed

by Robert J. Gardner, Alberta Champion

The Canadian Closed was held in Hamilton, Ontario in late August. I could not personally compare it to other Closeds, but I heard that it compared favourably. There was good participation by the high rated players; there was sponsorship; and it seemed well run.

I had to make the adjustment from being the grinder (in Alberta tournaments) to being the grindee. I spent a lot of time on the defensive. At one point I had a six game losing streak. My general conclusion was that I needed to improve my openings and that I got confused in complicated positions. My score of two wins, three draws and ten losses meant that I performed below my rating; but aside from some blunders, I thought I played reasonably. Certainly I gained a lot of valuable experience.

My mind was on chess much of the time, but during a long tournament I think it pays to get some relaxation as well. I mixed recreation with exercise by swimming and going for a few long walks. I caught a movie and went to a couple of tourist attractions. On the rest day, there was an impressive players' luncheon hosted by Dr. Paul Wentworth, one of the tournament benefactors.

[Tom O'Donnell insists I pass along his "Hi" to all those Albertans, especially Fred McFaul and Rob South.]

Thanks to the ACA for its financial support for this tournament. As it may be a while before I get back to Alberta, I would like to thank the chess community for the support and friendship given me over the years.

Lawrence Day - Rob Gardner (round 4)

1.e4 c5 2.f4 d5 I had been told that Day often played 2.f4 against the Sicilian. Not having any prior experience with it, I turned to my Batsford Chess Openings for guidance. The move 3...Qxd5 was given in a footnote and the line appealed to me. To my surprise, we reached the end of this line (despite transposing moves) with 11...Nc6, which BCO assesses as unclear. 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qd8 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Ne5 e6 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 O-O 9.Qf3 After the game, Day admitted that his choice to castle queenside was influenced by the existence of a brilliancy prize. He seemed to think that a plan involving Bc4 and kingside

castling should give White some advantage. 9...Nd5 10.O-O-O f6 11.Nc4 Nc6 12.Ne3 Nd4 13.Qf2 Nb4 14.Kb1 a5 Daysaid he was glad to see this. He felt that if Black's attack could be fended off, this pawn would be a liability in the ending. 15.a3 Nbc6 I spent 16 minutes trying to make a sacrifice work here. I was hoping that sacrificing a knight would leave his king vulnerable. After 15...Nbc6 16.Nxc2 Nxb3 17.a4, I felt my pawns would not be fluid enough to create a second wave of attack. 16.a4 Nb4 I like the idea of keeping White tied down to the defense of c2. One alternative was 16...Na7 to support a ...b5 pawn push. I expected to get in ...b5 eventually, but I never did manage to. Day recommended 16...f5 to obstruct his kingside pawn advances. I underestimated the speed with which White could create problems on the kingside. 17.g4 Bd7 17...f5 was still possible. If I recall correctly, Day did not like it as much as 16...f5, but I do not recall why. 18.f5 Be8 I had a lot of trouble making up my mind on this move. I felt uncomfortable with the positions I was seeing in the lines I was considering. I used 39 minutes, leaving myself 30 minutes to reach move 40. Day thought it would be consistent for me to play 18...e5 with the plan of preparing and playing ...b5. I played 18...Be8 because I wanted to fight for control of the diagonal leading to my king. 19.Bc4 Bf7 20.fxe6 Bxe6 21.Bxe6+ Nxe6 22.Nb5 Nc7 23.Nxc7 Qxc7 24.Qe2 Bd6 I'm intending to offer a bishop trade with the hope of weakening the protection of White's king. 25.h4 Be5 26.Qc4+ Controlling squares around Black's king could be helpful if White's h-pawn is allowed to crash through. Also, pushing the king further into the corner can sometimes create back rank threats or leave the king further from the endgame action. 26...Kh8 27.c3 Na6 28.h5 Qf7 I was worried about the safety of my king, but Day soon demonstrates that he has a good ending. 29.d4 cxd4 30.cxd4 Bf4 31.Qx17 Rx17 32.Nc4 Nb4 33.d5 Rd8 34.d6 Rfd7 35.Rhe1 Taking advantage of my weak back rank to indirectly defend the d-pawn. See the note to 26.Qc4+ 35...Kg8 36.Re4 Bh2 Not 36...Bxd6? 37.Red4 37.Ba3 I was afraid of 37.Nxa5. During the game Day thought I had a good response, but he concluded in the post mortem that 37.Nxa5 was really good for him. If 37...Bxd6 then 38.Red4 Kf7 (38...Nc6 39.Nxc6 bxc6 40.Ba3) 39.Nxb7 looks win-

ning for White. 37...Nc6 38.Nb6 Rxd6 With only two minutes left, I decided that defending passively with 38...Rf7 was too dangerous. I think I was right. A plausible continuation is 39.d7 (threatening 40.Re8+) h6 (39...g6 40.h6) 40.Re8+ Kh7 41.Rxd8 Nxd8 42.Nd5 (42...Rxd7? 43.Nxf6+) and Black's position looks so awkward that I think White should win somehow. 39.Bxd6 Rxd6 40.Rxd6 Bxd6 41.Nc4 White attacks the a5-pawn. See the note to 14...a5. 41...Bg3 42.Re8+ Kf7 43.Ra8 White wants to get his rook to c8 with tempo. His plan, a common one when a player is up the exchange, is to sac back the exchange under favourable circumstances. 43...Bc7 44.Rc8 Bf4 45.Kc2 First White improves his king position. 45...g6 I wanted to get rid of both the White g- and h-pawns, but Day would not cooperate. 46.Kd3 f5 Controls the e4-square as well as offering a pawn trade. 47.gxf5 gxf5 After the game Day said that 47...gxh5 looked messier and might therefore be better. One of my main reasons for playing 47...gxf5 was to restrict the approach of his king. Analyzing this position for this report made me realize that, although White is very close to winning, it is difficult to be sure that all the possible defenses have been exhausted. I think White is winning after 47...gxh5, but I am not completely sure. The position is not hideously complex though, and I expect that a player stronger than myself would be able to calculate this position all the way to the end during a game, rather than just rely on his judgement. One plausible line after 47...gxh5 is 48.Ke4 Bg3 49.Kf3 h4 50.Rxc6 bxc6 51.Nxa5 c5 52.Nc6 Bc7 53.a5 Kf6 54.a6 Bb6 55.Kg4 h5+ 56.Kxh4 Kxf5 (56...c4 57.bxc4 Kxf5 58.a7 Bxa7 59.Nxa7 Ke4 60.Nb5 Kd4 61.Na3 and the knight is, as desired, defending the pawn from behind) 57.Ne7+ and now: (a) 57...Ke4 58.Nc8 c4 59.Nxb6 and White promotes with check; (b) 57...Ke5 58.Nc8 c4 59.Nxb6 c3 (59...cxb3 60.Na4) 60.Nc4+ and 61.Na3; (c) 57...Ke6 58.Nc8 c4 59.Nxb6 c3 (59...bxc3 60.Na4) 60.a7 c2 61.a8(Q) c1(Q) 62.Qc8+ Qxc8 63.Nxc8 and White wins with 64.Nb6, 65.Nc4, and 66.Nd2 defending the pawn until the White king can help out. 48.Rh8 Day decides to lure my king further from the queenside before sacrificing on c6. However, I did not realize this at the time. I likely believed I could not do much to

(Continued on page 3...)

The *Alberta Chess Report (ACR)* is published 4-5 times per year by the *Alberta Chess Association (ACA)*. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles for brevity and clarity. Uncredited articles were written by the Editor—opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the ACA.

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ACR Deadline

Material for inclusion in the next *ACR* should be received by: **31 March 95**. Items received after that date *may* be delayed to a later *ACR*.

Reminder to Tournament Directors

The CFC requires a rating report to be submitted within 7 days after an event—you owe it to your participants to send in rating and membership reports ASAP. Also send a written report to the *ACR* (please support your Alberta newsletter!)—prize list, crosstable, and/or game(s) an asset.

Clubs

Please ensure that your listing is *correct*. Also, *your members* likely appreciate reports in the *ACR* on *your activities*.

Organizers of Events

Please send *ACR* details well in advance.

Always Get a Receipt

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

ALBERTA CHESS CLUBS

- not including junior and school clubs
- this is the latest info provided to the ACR
- you may wish to call before attending

CALGARY CC

Meets: Sandman Inn (Blackgold Room), 7th Ave & 8th St SW, Tues. 7:00-11:00.
Info: Barney Fegyverneki (243-6351; mail: c/o 1724-49 Ave SW, Calgary T2T 2T9).

EDMONTON CC

Meets: Oliver Community Hall, 10326-118 St, Thurs., 7:00-11:00.
Info: Kurt Lauterwald (434-7536; mail: c/o 4736-105A St, Edmonton T6H 2P3).
Schedule:
Jan 12 - Feb 23: *Edmonton Closed*, 7 rds.
Jan 12 - Feb 9: *Edmonton Reserves*, 5 rds.
Feb 16 - 23: *ECC Winter Active*, 2 rds/day (players not competing in the Closed).
Mar 2 - Apr 6: *Holowach Challenge & Shmitka Memorial*, 5 rds, 2 sections by rating.
Apr 13 - May 4: *ECC Capablanca*, 4 rds.
May 11: *Speed Chess*.
May 18 - 25: *ECC Spring Active*, 2 rds/day.
Jun 1 - 29: *ECC Memories of Fischer*, 5 rds.
Jul 6 - Aug 3: *ECC Summer Open*, 5 rds.
Aug 10 - 24: *ECC Summer RRs*, 3 rds each.
Aug 31 - Sep 6: *ECC Back to School Active*, 2 rds/day (8:30 start Sep 6 after AGM).
Sep 6: *Annual General Meeting*, 7:30 p.m.
Sep 13 - Oct 11: *Edmonton Open*.

GRANDE PRAIRIE CC

Meets: Royal Canadian Legion, 9912-101 Ave, Tues., 7:00 p.m. (Sept. 1 - Apr. 30).
Info: Phil Lefkowitz (538-1903; mail: c/o 9305-74 Ave, Grande Prairie T8V 6G2).

HINTON CC

Info: Peter Bundscherer (c/o Queen's Bakery & Cafe, PO Box 3217, Hinton T0E 1C0).

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES CC

Info: Bernie Tynan (771-3757; mail: c/o Box 90, Wandering River T0A 3M0).

RIMBEY CC

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

RED DEER CC

Meets: Red Deer College, room 907, Thurs., 7:00-11:00 (Sept. to May long weekend).
Info: Henry Vandervaart (341-3415, mail: c/o #307, 40 Cardinal Ave, Red Deer T4P 2T1).

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CC

Meets: SUB (basement), approx. 11:00-4:00 weekdays, September-April.
Info: David Bullas (440-3966; mail: Box 92, SUB, U of A, Edmonton T6G 2J7).

Top-Rated Albertans

(as of Dec 94 CFC 'Northern')

Rob Hawkes	2362
Greg Huber	2346
Dale Haessel	2273
Armiel Frialde	2260
Chris Demers	2256
Arthur Odachowski	2221
Sardul Purewal	2215
Ante Zaradic	2188
Ted Wilson	2177
Hafiz Karmali	2172
Neil Sharp	2152
Warrick Walker	2139
Dale Haukenfrers	2102
Christiaan Dartana	2080
Jim Daniluk	2061
Wilf Lahrkamp	2056
Barney Fegyverneki	2045
Paul Usselman	2040
Adam Wu	2040
Gerald Aspler	2030
Grant Brown	2004
Farzan Nazarian	2003
John Parrott	2002

Lev Gorelik	2248/10*
Nandor Tot	2133/19*
Sé (Shay) Randall	2129/9*
Walter Watson	2074/14*
Tim Pradzinski	2060/8*

* = provisional rating/games played (min. 5)

Only current or 'recent' (expired in about the past year) Alberta ACA members are included. Members not known (by the *ACR* editor) to have played in a regular-rated Alberta tournament in about the past year are: B. Brebrich 2225; G. Campbell 2160; M. Rabljenovic 2145; Z. Baunok 2126; B. Willis 2111; O. Farid 2058.

Qualifying for the 1995 Alberta Closed

Interested players should be sure they meet qualification requirements (check rules on p. 10 of the Nov/94 *ACR* and/or write the ACA for info). **Your written registration must be received by MARCH 10, 1995—** invitations are **NOT** issued.

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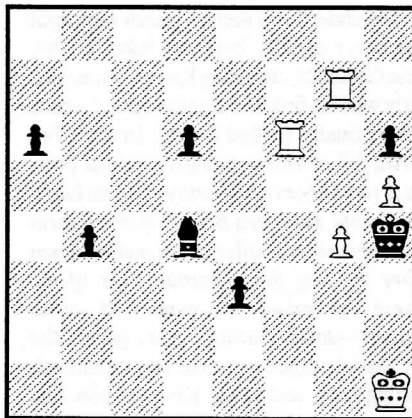
Manny Migicovsky
RR #1, L'Original, ON, K0K 1K0

(Canadian Closed, continued...)

prevent or prepare for an exchange sacrifice on c6. I probably was in the frame of mind that there was not much point calculating a complicated sequence if I could not do much about it anyways. I was basically waiting to see what White would do. 48...Kg7 49.Ra8 Bc7 50.Rc8 Bh2 51.Rxc6 bxc6 52.Nxa5 Finally capturing the pawn that he had considered a possible target since move 14. 52...Kh6 I thought for 25 minutes on this move, leaving myself 7 minutes to make it to move 60. I spent almost all my time on 52...Kh6 because I was having trouble figuring out whether I could get my idea to work, and I thought that 52...c5 would not keep my pawn alive very long anyways. In the few minutes we spent looking at 52...c5 in the post-mortem, we did not find a definitive line. I suspect that White is winning after 52...c5, but I am too lazy to prove it with analysis. 53.Nb7 and 53.Nc6 both have merit. 53.Nxc6 Kxh5 54.a5 Kg4? 54...Bc7 was necessary but would have been one tempo longer than the line I was hoping would draw by a miracle. 55.a6 Bg1 56.Nd4 I was surprised by this, but obviously it ends the game instantly. I had looked only at 56.a7 Bxa7 57.Nxa7. My long think on move 52 had ended in confusion, but I was hoping that White would find it awkward to stop both my pawns while promoting his b-pawn. Black resigns. (1-0)

Rob Gardner - Francois Leveille (round 14)
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.exf5 Bxf5 12.c3 Bg7 13.Nc2 Ne7 14.Nxe7 Up to this point I was merely repeating moves I had played before. My understanding of the position was due more to practical experience than studying chess theory. I had not seen 13...Ne7 before. Later, Leveille told me that 14.Nxe7 should not give White an advantage. 14...Bxc2 14...Qxe7? 15.Qf3. 15.Qxc2 Qxe7 16.Bd3 White dreams of establishing the bishop on e4 or d5. Unfortunately, I overlooked Black's reply until after I moved. 16...e4 17.Be2 17.Bxe4? d5. 17...O-O 18.O-O b4 19.c4 On 19.cxb4, I was afraid of a speedy advance by Black's passed d-pawn. Leaving my pawn on c3 would allow Black to isolate it with 19...bxc3. 19...Bd4 Putting the bishop on an aggressive diagonal. 20.Rad1 Qe5 Black has better access to aggressive posts for his pieces. His advanced pawns create the possibility of getting a dangerous passed pawn at some point. 21.b3 Rae8 22.Kh1 Kh8 23.Qd2 Bc5 24.Qh6 Qe6 25.Qh4 I cannot remember what my reasoning was for avoiding the queen exchange. Perhaps I thought that my queen was the piece most likely to create problems

for Black. Black's king is a little exposed. 25...f5 26.f3 This allows Black to get a good passed pawn, but in return I get a target on f5 to aim at. It is conceivable that Black can force a win somehow, but I have practical fighting chances. 26... e3 27.f4 Rf6 28.Rd5 Rg8 29.Qh3 Qe4 Francois is a time pressure addict. He has 25 minutes left at this point, but he chews up most of his time during his next few moves of pawn hunting. 30.Qf3 Qc2 31.Bd3 Qxa2 32.Rxf5 Qxb3 33.Rxf6 Qxd3 34.Re6 Qxc4 Black now has 2 minutes to make it to move 40 while White has 12 minutes. I do not know whether any big opportunities were missed during the time scramble. For instance, I do not know whether Black missed a chance to get his pawns rolling. 35.f5 Qg4 36.Qxg4 Rxg4 37.f6 Rg8 38.Ra1 Rf8 39.g4 h6 40.h4 Kh7 41.Re7+ Kg6 I was surprised by this move because I thought it just lost. 42.Rf1 Threatening checkmate. 42...Rxf6 43.h5+ Kg5 44.Rg7+ Kh4 45.Rxf6 Bd4



The move I overlooked. I spent over half an hour on my next move as it slowly dawned on me that I might have trouble winning and could even lose. I showed this position to Jeff Reeve and Dave Ross, both rated in the high 2300s. Their immediate reaction was disbelief that I managed to avoid losing. 46.g5 This move at least temporarily defends my f6 rook while giving me the option of getting to e4 via a check on f4. It also creates the chance to get a passed pawn which turned out to be crucial in the game. 46.Rg7 loses to 46...e2 47.Rf1 (47.Re6 Be5 and Black queens) 47...exf1(Q)+ 48.Rxf1 b3 followed by an avalanche of Black pawns. I rejected 46.Rxd6 because I thought it meant being too willing to acquiesce to a draw, but it may be that it just loses to 46...Bxg7. One line that Leveille showed me was 47.Rxa6 Bc3 48.Re6 b3, when one of the pawns must queen. 47.Rd3 a5 48.Rxe3 a4 also leaves White unable to stop the pawns. Trickier is 47.Kg2, but I think it loses to 47...b3 48.Kf3 (48.g5 e2 49.Kf2 b2 50.Rb6 Bd4+; or 48.Rb6 b2 49.Kf3 Bd4 and

White is too tied up to prevent the advance of the a-pawn) 48...b2 49.Rd1 a5 50.Kxe3 (50.Rh1+ Kg5 or 50.Kf4 Kh3 51.Kf3 Kh2 52.Kxe3 a4) 50...a4 51.Kf4 Kh3 52.Kf3 Be5 53.Rh1+ Bh2 54.g5 a3 55.g6 a2 56.g7 b1(Q) 57.Rxb1 axb1(Q) 58.g8(Q) Qd3+ 59.Kf2 Bg3+ 60.Kg1 Qd1 mate. 46...e2 On 46...hxg5 I think my original intention was 47.Rxd6 Bxg7 48.h6. However, after 48...e2 49.Re6 Bh8 50.Rxe2 b3 I would have been powerless to prevent 51...b2 followed by the advance of the a-pawn. The move 48.Rxa6 fails to 48...Bc3 49.Re6 b3 50.Rxe3 b2. Another plausible alternative on move 48 is 48.Kg2, activating the king, but I think this fails to 48...b3 49.h6 (49.Rxa6 e2 50.Kf2 b2 50.Ra4+ [50.Rb6 Bd4+] 50...Kxh5 51.Rb4 e1(Q)+ 52.Kxe1 Bc3+) 49...Bh8 50.Kf3 (50.Rxa6 fails in the same way as the last note) 50...b2 51.Rd1 g4+ 52.Kxe3 g3 53.Kf3 a5, when Black's pawn triumphs again. Instead of 47.Rxd6, attacking the dangerous passer with 47.Re6 looks better. After 47...Bxg7 (47...Be5? 48.Rb7 a5 49.Rb5 looks losing for Black) 48.h6 (48.Rxe3? Kxh5). Black can try 48...Bxh6 49.Rxh6+ Kg3. I am too lazy to figure out the complications of this position, but I suspect that Black should not lose and may have a forced win. White loses with 50.Rxd6 e2 51.Re6 Kf2 52.Rf6+ Ke3 53.Re6+ Kd2 54.Rd6+ Kc3 55.Re6 a5, but perhaps he can draw with 50.Re6 Kf3 51.Rf6+ or 50.Kg1. I have not looked really hard, but I am skeptical about Black having a better move than 48...Bxh6 in this line. 47.Rf4+ Kg3 48.Re4 Bxg7 48...Kf3? 49.Rge7 Be5 50.Rxe2 Kxe2 51.Rb7 (to paralyze the b-pawn) 51...a5 52.gxh6 with the plan h7, h6, Rg7 looks like trouble for Black. 49.Rxe2 hxg5 I think 49...a5 draws after 50.gxh6 Bxh6 51.Ra2 b3 52.Rxa5 (if 52.Ra3 a4 53.Rxa4 b2 54.Rb4 the rook is on a dark square which would make it a target for the bishop) 52...b2 53.Rb5 Bg7 54.Kg1 50.Re7 I was optimistic about holding the draw by this point. One of the keys to my defensive plan was to halt the advance of Black's dangerous b-pawn with Rb7. I believed that in some lines I would use the drawing plan of capturing two pawns (presumably a and d) with my rook, then sacrificing my rook for another pawn and using my pawn to deflect Black's bishop away from the defense of his last pawn. 50...Bd4 We each had less than 10 minutes to get to move 60. 51.Rb7 a5 52.h6 Kf2 53.h7 Ke2 54.Rb6 To discourage Black's king from crossing the d-file. Now 54...Kd3? 55.Rxd6 Kc3 56.Rxd4 allows White to queen. 54...Bg7 55.Kg2 d5 55...Kd3 56.Rxd6+. Black has the choice between 56...Kc2, when White can implement the plan described in the note to move 50: 57.Ra6 b3 58.Rxa5 b2 59.Rb5 b1(Q) 60.Rxb1 Kxb1 61.Kg3 Kc2 62.Kg4 Bf6 63.h8(Q) Bxh8

64.Kxg5 or 56...Kc4 57.Rd7 and Black's bishop will never find shelter from harassment by the White rook. 56.Rb5 Ke3 56...d4 57.Rxg5 certainly has winning chances for Black. 57.Rxa5 Kd4 Now White has perpetual on the bishop. The Black pawns are too advanced for White to hope to win. 58.Ra7 Be5 59.Re7 Bf6 60.Rf7 Bh8 61.Rf8 (draw)

The following entertaining near-miss requires the explanation that the last fifteen moves or so were played in time pressure.

Rob Gardner - Grant Spraggett

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.g4 Bg6 6.Nge2 Be7 7.Nf4 Nd7 8.Be3 a6 9.Qd2 Nf8 10.O-O-O h5 11.Nxh5 Bxh5 12.gxh5 Rxh5 13.Be2 Rh8 14.Rdg1 g6 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.Rxg5 Rh4 17.f4 Qa5 18.Bd3 Ne7 19.Qf2 Rh6 20.h4 O-O-O 21.h5 Nd7 22.Rhg1 gxh5 23.Rg7 c5 24.Rxf7 cxd4 25.Rxe7 dxc3 26.Qd4 cxb2+ 27.Qxb2 Nc5 28.Kd1 R2 29.Rg8+ Kc7 30.Ree8 Kc6 31.f5 Rc7 32.f6 Na4 33.Rxe6+ Kc5 34.Qb3 Kd4 35.f7 Rxf7 36.Rxh6 Rf2 37.Qxa4+ Panic! Necessary was 37.Be2 Nc3+ 38.Ke1 [38.Kc1 Rxe2] Rxe2+ 39.Kf1 37...Qxa4 38.Rxh5 Qa5 39.Rg4+ Kc5 40.Kc1 Qxa2 (0-1)

Calgary Chess Club Championship

(Nov. 1 - Dec. 13, 1994)

by Tim M. Murphy, TD

John Ferrar was undefeated throughout the tournament, with a draw to Farzan Nazarian in the third round as his only non-full-point round. He was summoned to work in another country, and had to withdraw from the last round. With 5.5/6 points he still took second place overall.

Farzan Nazarian took advantage of John's absence to win first overall with 6/7 points. Farzan also was undefeated throughout the tournament, yielding only 2 draws.

Third place went to Paul Usselman with 5/7 points. Paul's only loss of the tournament was at the hands of John Ferrar.

The Under 2000 category was a tie between Jim Flemming and Leo Danglapien. Both finished the tournament with a healthy 4/7 points.

The Under 1600 category was won by Bruce Kiely in the last round with a hard fought win over Jim Van Wyck. Rated 300 points below seems to mean little when there is prize money at stake! Nelson Silva had a 1/2 point lead over Bruce going into the last round, but couldn't find a way to defeat Jim Daniluk and so gets less beer money and second place.

See you all next fall!

Weekend Before Christmas Open

by Jeff Cummer, TD

(Organizer: Ford Wong)

The Weekend Before Christmas Open was held December 17-18 (duh) in the main function room at the SUB building on the U of A campus. Twenty-nine players, from Cold Lake to Calgary, arrived to compete in the tournament.

Yugoslavian immigrant Sasha Grumic won the top prize with a 4.5/5 score when he defeated Alberta's Junior Champion, Adam Wu, in a tense last round battle. He also scored the point against a former Canadian Junior Champion, Edmonton's Nigel Fullbrook (back from a long hiatus, he has been playing competitive bridge and is nearly a Life Master), in what was probably the best game of the tournament. Sasha also drew his game with Saskatoon expert Tim Philip. Oddly enough, it was these three players who split the second place prize in the open section. All were tied at 4/5.

The under 1900 section prizes were split three ways equally between Ravi Trikha, Mario Gonzalez, and Doug Kinney. Gonzalez nearly won his first round game against Bruce Kiely (I finally spelled it right, Bruce!), but his flag fell in a devastatingly winning position [I remember it differently—Mario had a forced mate, but it was Bruce's move. Mario was subjected to a killer check and resigned before the flag fall. Perhaps one of the players can submit the game and set us straight?—John Quiring] Ravi played the only two adjourned games of the tournament, winning both, and Doug Kinney upset Luc Serra, rated 143 points higher, in the last round to clinch his share of the prize.

The under 1700 section saw a five-way tie for the prizes. Duncan Campbell, Aaron Lovi, Daryl Bertrand, Cynthia Wu, and Henry Vandervaart each took home \$18.20. The first four are juniors, so Mr. Vandervaart was the only prize winner to take home less (\$1.80) than his entry fee (still not a bad deal-ed.).

If there had been a brilliancy prize, the following game would have won it. Observe how Sasha sacrifices three pieces before proceeding to destroy Nigel:

N. Fullbrook (2312) - S. Grumic (unr) Rd 2
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.f3 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Be3 Nbd7 6.Qd2 c6 7.O-O-O Qa5 8.Kb1 b5 9.g4 b4 10.Nce2 Nb6 11.Nc1 Rb8 12.h4 Bxg4 13.Nb3 Qa4 14.fxg4 Nxe4 15.Qg2 Nc3+ 16.bxc3 Nd5 17.Bd2 bxc3 18.Bc1 Nb4 19.a3 Nxc2 20.Kxc2 Qxb3+ 21.Kd3 Qxd1+ 22.Ke4 Qxc1 23.Ne2 d5+ 24.Kf3 Qxa3 25.Qg3 c2+ 26.Kf2 Qxg3+ 27.Kxg3 Rb1 28.Bg2 Rxh1 29.Bxh1 Bxd4 (0-1)

P. Alderton (1493) - D. Wu (1741) Rd 2
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.O-O b5 9.Bg5 Bb7 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Nh4 Nd7 12.Nf5 Nc5 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.Qxd5 Ne6 15.Bh5 Kf8 16.Nh6 Qc8 17.Bxf7 Nf4 18.Qb3 a5 19.Rfe1 a4 20.Qxb5 Kg7 21.Bd5 Kxh6 22.Bxa8 Qg4 23.g3 Nh3+ 24.Kf1 Qf3 25. Resigns (0-1) [?? 25.Qb6 Rxa8 26.Qe3+ Ng5 27.h4 Qxe3 28.Rxe3 looks fairly even—John Quiring]

F. Wong (1933) - A. Wu (2040) Rd 3
(King's Indian) 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 O-O 6.Be3 e5 7.Nge2 c6 8.Qd2 a6 9.O-O-O Qc7 10.Kb1 b5 11.g4 Nbd7 12.d5 c5 13.Ng3 b4 14.Na4 Nb6 15.Nxb6 Qxb6 16.h4 Ra7 17.h5 Qc7 18.Bh6 Ne8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.hxg6 fxg6 21.Qh6+ Kg8 22.Bg2 Qg7 23.Qg5 Qf6 24.Qxf6 Nxf6 25.Kc1 a5 26.Kd2 Nxe4 27.Rdf1 Nf6 28.f4 exf4 29.Rxf4 Re7 30.Bh3 Bxh3 31.Rxh3 Nd7 32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.b3 Rf7 34.Ne2 Ne5 35.Ke3 h5 36.Nf4 Ng4+ 37.Ke2 Rxf4 (0-1)

C. Dartana - D. Ottosen Rd 3

annotated by Ottosen

1.e4 c5 2.d4 e6 3.c3 d5 4.e5 Nc6 5.Nf3 Nge7 To avoid Christiaan's nutty gambits, I chose to transpose into a French Advance. Unluckily for me, I don't know anything about this opening, except to keep pressuring the d4 pawn—thanks Brady. 6.Bd3 cxd4 MCO only gives 6.Na3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf5 8.Nc2 with a controversial theoretical position. 7.cxd4 Qb6 8.Nc3 Bd7 The immediate Nxd4 is met by 9.Nxd4 Qxd4?? 10.Bb5+, hence the text. 9.O-O?! Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Re1 Nc6 12.Nb5! Qb6 13.Bg5 A very deep idea by White, who intends to crash through somehow and infiltrate on d8. I thought that his idea ran towards 14.Nd6+ Bxd6 15.exd6 and 16.Be7. 13...Nxe5? It was hard to believe then—and it's still hard to believe—that this move loses almost by force. The best is 13...Bc5 14.Nd6+ Kf8, threatening Nxe5, which looks winning for Black. This is a weird position, where the knight on the 6th is not particularly helpful. 14.Rxe5 Bxb5 15.Rxd5!! And now the great awakening! If 15...exd5 16.Qe2+ Kd7 17.Bxb5+, and every bus goes to Checkmatetown. 15...Bxd3 15...Bc6 is likely a better move, but I wanted to settle down and exchange off a few pieces. 16.Rxd3 Bc5 Hoping to get a tempo to castle. 17.Qa4+ Qc6 18.Qg4 Qb6 To deal with the threat of Rc1 and keep an eye on d8. 19.Rad1 h5? My fondest wish of playing f6 loses to 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Qh5+ Kf8 22.Rd7, so I played h5 to prevent the queen check, but overlooked... 20.Qa4+ Kf8 21.Rd8+ Rxd8 22.Rxd8+ Qxd8 23.Bxd8 Kg8 24.Bg5 Kh7 25.Qe4+ g6 26.Qxb7 Kg7 27.Qc6 Bb6 28.g3 (1-0)

L. Serra (1884) - F. Wong (1933) Rd 4
annotated by Wong

1.c4 An English. I was not expecting this opening but felt that this would be a test for me. A challenge. 1...g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 Nf6 5.e4 Transposing into a KID Classical. Inow felt comfortable. 5...0-0 6.h3 I remember seeing this move before and couldn't remember the ideas behind it. Luc said that he recently used this line to beat a master. 6...Nbd7 7.Be2 e5 8.Be3 a6 Waiting to see White's plan. Should White play 0-0-0, I can get b5 and a queenside attack. 9.b4?! I didn't expect this move. This weakens c3, giving some tactics. Luc said his idea was to prevent ...Nc5 after d5. 9...exd4 10.Nxd4 c5 11.Nc2 11.bxc5 dxc5 12.Nf3 Ng4 13.Bd2. 11...cxb4 12.Nxb4 Nc5 I didn't think 12...Qa5 lead anywhere after 13.a3 (13.Qb3; 13.Qxd6—we looked at this variation but it leaves White's Q in an awkward position after 13...Rd8). 13.e5 Luc said that he purposely decided to sac this pawn as he didn't like the setup required to support it. 13...Nfe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.0-0 Sacrificing the pawn. 15...Nc3 Getting rid of a B. Luc didn't expect this move and wasn't very happy about giving one up. 16.Qd2 Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 dxe5 Getting rid of my isolated pawn and connecting my kingside pawns. White has the weaker pawn structure. 17...Bxe5 is tempting, as it gives lots of tactical play, but leaves me with a weak d-pawn. Luc thought I was going to play this move. 18.Rad1 Qh4 My idea was to attack c4. 19.Bc5 Rd8 20.Rxd8+ I was surprised when White chose to trade Rs. 20.Nd5 threatens Be7—Luc said he never saw this. 20...Qxd8 21.Rd1 Qa5 22.Be7 Be6 Stopping Rd8+. 23.Qe4 Putting pressure on my pinned b-pawn. 23...Qc7 24.Bd6 24.Nxa6 Rxa6 25.Rd8+ Bf8 26.Rxf8+ Kg7. 24...Qd7 Indirectly protecting the e-pawn. 24...Qxc4 25.Qxb7. 25.c5 f5 To drive the Q off the diagonal. 26.Qc2 Qb5 27.a3?! Giving me a tempo to defend. 27...Rc8 28.Rb1 Qd7 29.Rd1 e4 30.Qd2 Time left: W < 11 minutes, B < 23 (time control at move 45, I think—ed). 30...Qf7 Preventing Nd5. 31.Rc1 Bf8 32.Bxf8 I didn't expect White to trade Bs. If I trade, I help him advance his pawn. However, I think that if White didn't trade I was going to play 31...Qd7. 32...Qxf8 33.Qd4 a5 Idea 33...a5 34.Nd5 Rd8 35.Nf6+ Kf7 and the N is trapped. 34.Nd5 34.Na2—Luc said that he was counting on this should I play a5 and didn't realize until now that it drops a N; 34.Nc2 Qxc5. 34...Rd8 Originally, I envisioned 34...Qd8 35.Nf6+ White walks into the trap I set for him. Time left: W < 6, B < 11. 35...Kf7 36.Qb2 36.Qe5—Luc said that he saw this move after making his move. Sasha Grumic seemed to think that this would win for White but then we found 36...Qh8. 36...Qg7 37.Qxb7+ Kxf6

Winning a N, but White gets 2 pawns compensation. Time left: W < 6 B < 5. 38.Qb6 Qd7 I played this thinking that with time pressure White would play the obvious Qxa5, and to confuse him with an unexpected type move. Idea 38...Qd7 39.Qxa5 Qd2 40.Qxd2 Rxd2; 38...a4 saves the a-pawn followed by Bb3 and I think this was what White was expecting. 39.Qxa5 A sigh of relief when he played this. I felt that 39.c6 was his most dangerous line, and feared that he would play it. I asked why he didn't, and Luc said that, due to time pressure, he didn't look at it closely. 39...Qd2 threatening ...Qxc1+. 40.Rb1 I think Black can stop White's pawns. 40...Rc8. 39...Qd2 40.Qxd2 Rxd2 41.c6 Rd3 42.c7 Bc8 43.a4 Ke7 44.a5 Ra3 Idea 44...Ra3 45.Rd1 Rc3!. 45.Rd1 Rc3 46.Rd8 Rxc7 47.Rh8 Kf6 48.Kf1 Ke5 48...Kg7, harrassing the R, just chases it to a more active position. 49.h4 Kf4 50.Ke1 Kg4 51.g3 Kf3 52.Rf8 e3 To weaken the g- and h-pawns. 53.fxe3 Kxe3 Threatening mate. 54.Re8+ Kf3 From here I got a bit relaxed as I felt that the game was a cake walk as my K could just walk up and gobble up all the loose White pawns. 55.h5 Kxg3 56.h6 Kh4 57.Rg8 Not seeing White's idea: 57...Kh5 58.Rg7 Now I saw the danger and what White was playing for. I thought for a long time before playing: 58...Rc5 I envisioned the next sequence of moves where I would have to give up my B (58...Rgx7 59.hxg7 Be6 60.a6 Kh6 61.a7+-; 58...Rd7 59.a6 Kxh6 60.a7+- I didn't see this during the game. Black probably still has a win, but it will take longer.) 59.Rxh7 g5 60.Rh8 Kg6 61.h7 g4 Saving the g-pawn. I felt that the two connected passed pawns would eventually win. 61...Rxa5? 62.Rg8+ Kxh7 63.Rxg5. 62.a6 Bxa6 Giving up the B. A small victory for White. However Black is still winning and White is going to make me work for it. 63.Ra8 Kxh7 63...Re5+—I looked at this line for a long time, hoping to get a better position for my R before giving up the B. 64.Kf2 Re2+ 65.Kg3 Re3+ And I cannot really drive the White K to a white square for a check, or force a mate after White queens. 64.Rxa6 Rc2 Restricting the White K to the back rank. White's R could hamper my K a bit, but eventually it would have to give up control of the 3rd rank to allow my K to advance to support the pawns. 65.Re6 g3 Threatening ...g2. 66.Kf1 Forced. 66...f4 67.Rf6 Rf2+ 68.Kg1 f3 With this pawn setup I now have the additional threat of Ra2 and Ra1#. 69.Rf4 Kh6 70.Rf6+ Kg5 71.Rf8 Kg4 72.Rg8+ I think Luc thought that he could draw by continuous checking, but I saw shelter for the K at e1. 72...Kf4 73.Rf8+ Ke3 74.Re8+ Kd2 75.Rd8+ Ke1 76.Re8+ Re2 77.Rf8 Rg2+ 77...f2+ 78.Kh1 f1(Q)+? (78...g2+! 79.Kxg2 f1(Q)+ +) 79.Rxf1+ Kxf1=. 78.Kh1 Rh2+

Avoiding stalemate. White resigns. After 78...Rh2+, 79.Kg1 f2+ 80.Rxf2 gxf2+ 81.Kxh2 f1(Q) -+. Time taken: W—2:09 B—3:01 (0-1)

D. Bertrand (1576) - J. Cummer (1521) Rd 4
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nf3 O-O 7.Qc2 a6 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 b5 10.Bd3 h6 11.Bh4 Bb7 12.e4 c5 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.Rd1 Nxd3+ 15.Rxd3 Qc8 16.e5 Be4 17.exf6 Bxd3 18.Qxd3 Rd8 19.Qe3 Bxf6 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Qxh6 Qc4 22.Qxf6 Qd3 23.Qg5+ Kf8 24.Qe3 Qxe3+ 25.fxe3 Rac8 26.a3 a5 27.O-O b4 28.axb4 axb4 29.Ne4 Rd3 30.Neg5 Rxe3 31.Nd4 Kg7 32.Nxf7 Rc4 33.Nf3 Rc2 34.b3 Re2 35.g3 Rb2 36.N7e5 Rbc2 37.Nd3 Re4 38.Re1 Rxe1+ 39.Ndxe1 Rc3 40.Nd2 Kg6 41.Kf2 Kh5 42.h3 e5 43.Nef3 e4 44.Nxe4 Rxb3 45.g4+ Kh6 46.g5+ Kg7 47.h4 Ra3 48.h5 Ra6 49.h6+ Rxh6 50.gxh6+ Kxh6 and the game was eventually given up as a draw.

J. Quiring - G. Aspler Rd 5
annotated by Quiring

1.e4 d6 2.f4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Be2 Nbd7 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Bxf3 e5 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.d3 Bc5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Qe7 13.Qd2 O-O-O 14.O-O-O h5 Sacking the g-pawn, I said to myself; after 15.Qxg5 Rdg8 16.Qh4 my queen is on a bad square, but it will take him two moves to attack it (Nd7-f8-g6), and in the meantime I can play Bh2 and retreat the queen to e1, so... 15.Qxg5 Rdg8 16.Qh4 Be3+ Oops. I didn't see that. 17.Kb1 Bg5 18.resigns. (0-1) How embarrassing. I haven't had my queen trapped since grade 9.

The TD would like to thank Ford Wong for organizing the tournament and Wayne for faithfully assisting with the TD chores. Thanks to all the players who made this such a strong tournament, especially those who travelled many miles to play the Royal Game.

Edmonton Chess Club Winter Open

Twenty-two players finished battling it out in the ECC Winter Open just before Christmas. Chris Dartana was highest rated, but that didn't help him in round 3, when he lost to Ferenc Borloi, the tournament winner with 4.5/5 (draw with Geoff Newton in the last round). Dartana's 4-1 score gave him clear second. Newton and Ahmet Yamach were next with 3.5. The other positive scorers (3-2) were John Quiring, Ravi Trikha, Sasha Grumic, George Kohler, and Jeff Cummer. The Editor doesn't know who might have won class prizes (but he's pretty sure JQ wouldn't have received such a prize, anyway...).



ALBERTA JUNIOR CHESS REPORT



(A special section of the Alberta Chess Report, January 1995)

Alberta Cadet Championship

by Jeff Cummer, TD

(Organizer: Ford Wong)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1 Nathan McLean	x	1	=	=	1	1	4.0
2 Cynthia Wu	0	x	1	=	1	1	3.5
3 Jordan Davies	=	0	x	0	1	1	2.5
4 Douglas Wu	=	=	1	x	1	=	3.5
5 John Rajchel	0	0	0	0	x	=	0.5
6 Jeremiah Gallinger	0	0	0	=	=	x	1.0

The 1994 Alberta Cadet was held December 10-11 at the U of A Students' Union Building. Six competitors from across the province participated, with hopes of winning the right to participate in the Canadian Cadet Championship. After drawing lots to determine player numbers, it was discovered that the two highest-rated players, Edmonton's Douglas Wu and Rimbey's Nathan McLean, would meet in the final round, setting up the possibility of an exciting finish.

In round 1, Calgary's John Rajchel played too quickly against Nathan and was mated in 34 moves. Rajchel used less than ten minutes for the entire game, his opponent a full hour. Calgary's Jordan Davies capitalized on a blunder by Edmonton's Jeremiah Gallinger:

J. Davies (1476) - J. Gallinger (1410) Rd 1
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 d6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.gxf3 a6 11.a3 O-O 12.Rg1 Nd4 13.Bc4 h6?? 14.Bxh6 Nh5 15.f4 Bf6 16.fxe5 Kh7 17.exf6 Kxh6 18.Qxd4 Qxf6 19.Qd2+ g5 20.h4 Rg8 21.O-O-O Rad8 22.Nd5 Qe5 23.Ne3 Qxe4 24.Bxf7 Rgf8 25.Ng4+ Kg7 26.Bxh5 (1-0)

The longest game of the round was the contest between Douglas Wu and his sister Cynthia. Unlike their most recent encounter, this draw was anything but "family-type", and featured an interesting knight sacrifice:

D. Wu (1741) - C. Wu (1610) Rd 1
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 O-O 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Nge2 e5 8.Qd2 a5 9.O-O-O b6 10.d5 Nb8 11.g4 Na6 12.h4 h5 13.g5 Nd7 14.Bh3 Bb7 15.Rdg1 Ndc5 16.Ng3 Nb4 17.Bxc5 bxc5 18.Nxh5 gxh5 19.g6 fxxg6 20.Rxxg6 Rf6 21.Qh6 Rxxg6 22.Qxxg6 Nd3+ 23.Kc2 Nf4 24.Be6+ Nxe6 25.dxe6 Qf6 26.Qf5 Qxf5 27.exf5 Bxf3 28.Rf1 Bg4 29.f6 Bxe6 30.Rg1 Bxc4 31.Rxxg7+ Kh8 32.Rxc7 Rf8 33.Ne4 Bxa2 34.b3 Rb8 35.Nd2 Rf8 36.Ne4 (draw)

Round two saw the three top players overpower their opponents to score full points. Nathan won three of Jeremiah's pawns in the middle game and cruised on to victory. John once again played too quickly and lost to Cynthia. Douglas won his game with Jordan.

In round three, Jordan ended a four game losing streak vs. John with a win. Cynthia was forced to sacrifice the exchange vs. Nathan after her rook was trapped in the endgame, and Nathan went on to win. Douglas was surprised by a sacrifice from Jeremiah:

J. Gallinger (1410) - D. Wu (1741) Rd 3
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e6 7.Bc4 Be7 8.f4 Qc7 9.Qd3 Nbd7 10.Bxe6 Nc5 11.Bxf7+ Kxf7 12.Qc4+ Be6 13.Nxe6 Nxe6 14.Qb3 Rac8 15.f5 Qc4 16.fxe6+ Kxe6 17.Qxc4+ Rxc4 18.Bg5 Nxe4 19.Bxe7 Nxc3 20.Bxd6 Kxd6 21.bxc3 Rxc3 22.Kd2 Rhc8 23.Rhc1 (draw)

Douglas's second draw of the day put him a full point behind Nathan in second, tied with Jordan. Cynthia was still in the running, 1.5 behind the leader with two rounds to go.

The next morning, Cynthia outplayed Jeremiah for the point. John seemed more focused and used more time to think than he did on the first day, but lost a pawn and the exchange to Douglas and eventually the game. The biggest shocker of the tournament occurred in the following game:

J. Davies (1476) - N. McLean (1702) Rd 4
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.e5 Qe7 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bb5 Bd7 8.O-O dxe5 9.Re1 e4 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 Rc8 13.Nc3 a6 14.Bxc6 Bxc6 15.Be5 Bg7 16.d5 Rd8 17.Bxf6 (draw; on White's offer [??]).

I must say that I was somewhat disappointed with the result, as it was difficult for me to see how Nathan's fortress building prowess, as strong as it is, could defend against this attack, but Jordan was happy to score a half point against Nathan.

The final round saw Jeremiah enter a winning endgame against John, who refused to go back to Calgary without at least a draw. After playing many moves in a resignable position (down a knight and a pawn with rooks on the board), John managed to trade off all of the pieces, after a mistake by Jeremiah, to enter a drawn king and pawn ending. Cynthia beat Jordan to clinch at least a share of second. Nathan needed only a draw to advance to the Canadian finals:

N. McLean (1702) - D. Wu (1741) Rd 5
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.O-O b5 9.a3 Bb7 10.f3 Nbd7 11.Be3 Rc8 12.Rc1 O-O 13.Qd2 Nb6 14.Na5 Ba8 15.Rfd1 Qc7 16.Kh1 Rfd8 17.Bxb6 Qxb6 18.Nb3 d5 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Qe1 Bg5 22.Nd2 Be6 23.Bd3 Qd4 24.Rb1 Ba2 25.Nb3 Qf4 26.Ra1 Bxb3 27.cxb3 Rd4 28.Bf1 Rc2 29.Rab1 Rxd1 30.Qxd1 Qd2 31.Qxd2 Bxd2 32.a4 bxa4 33.bxa4 a5 34.b3 Rc1 35.Rxc1 Bxc1 36.Bc4 (draw)

And Nathan McLean became Alberta's representative to the Canadian Cadet Championship for the second straight year.

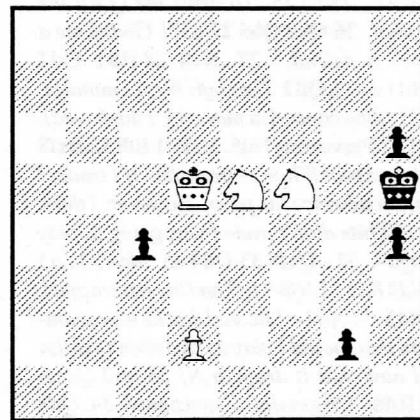
Thanks to all the participants, especially the out-of-town players and their families who travelled the distance to support their children. Congratulations are in order to the Davies family, who by the time this report is published should have a new member of their household.



This problem is for everyone, not just juniors, but the junior section had the space for it!

??? John Q Tests You ???

Here is a great chess problem—very difficult, tricky, with a unique solution:



White to play and draw

If you can solve this, you have my permission to call yourself a "problem solving grand-master". (Solution on page 9.)

EJCC November Nicety

by Adam Wu, TD

Ten players participated in the pleasanties this time around. With D. Wu off spiking volleyballs, B. Wu working on her first million in tutoring, and the ACR editor no where to be seen, **Matthew Wong** had no difficulties in amiably cleaning up with 5/5. Arthur Kan was second with 4/5. Meanwhile, **David Murray** claimed the under-1175-or-so/unrateds-who-don't-appear-to-have-had-much-experience prize with a solid 3/5. The TD spent too much time engrossed in his reading and didn't notice too much about the games. This tournament also saw the debut of newcomer Jonathan Chi, who also claimed his first victory. The day also witnessed an active match between Cynthia Wu and Aaron Lovi, which Aaron won soundly 4-0.

It has been a long time since I've had a game to annotate, since no one hands anything in, and many of the younger players are not asked to record moves anyways. Nevertheless, it is my belief that a Junior Chess Club should not only provide an environment and opportunity for aspiring Kasparov's to test their skills, but should also be an avenue for learning how to improve one's game. In view of this, the EJCC started in 1994 to introduce lecture sessions, the first of which was given by Ford a week after this tournament.

In this vein, I am going to try from now on to include an instructive game with every tournament report. If possible, I will take the game from the tournament itself. If this is not possible, I will find 'other' sources.

In this report's game, I am going to focus on opening principles and their application to the early middlegame. I'm doing this largely because the game I've chosen doesn't go any further than that!

Most books list three principal goals that should be accomplished in the opening: control the centre, develop pieces, and bring the king to safety...but sometimes it's not quite that simple. Controlling the centre does not necessarily mean occupying it. Development is a fine concept, but where do you put your pieces? Will just any centralized square do? Does castling always bring your king to safety?

Let's see how these opening ideas were applied (or not applied) in the following game:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 *We have a Ruy Lopez, one of the most popular e4 e5 openings. By playing 3.Bb5, White aims to undermine Black's central control by attacking the defender of Black's e5 pawn. Black has two main ways of dealing with this: staunchly defend his pawn by playing ...d6 or counter-attack White's e4 pawn with ...Nf6, etc. In practice, neither idea has worked out well for*

Black. What Black does instead is play ...a6, putting the question to the B/b5. If White now captures with Bxc6, then Black plays dxc6 (not bxc6), and the e5 pawn is immune, since Nxe5 is answered by ...Qd4, winning the e4 pawn back. If White plays Ba4, Black will then continue with either ...d6 or ...Nf6, the difference now being that at the right moment Black can play...b5, relieving pressure on the N/c6. In this game, Black tries a different method. He seeks to exchange some central pieces early and remove the tension. However, ...Nd4 has the disadvantages of (1) wasting time by moving a piece twice and (2) deflecting the p/e5 off the e-file, making it that much easier for White to mount a K-side storm with moves like f4 and e5. Note here that each development move has a specific purpose, and is directed at a specific target. Also, notice that the N's were developed before the B's. This is a general rule, due to the fact that usually there are several squares where you can place a bishop, but only one or two places where you can place a knight. Thus, most players develop knights first, and wait until the position has clarified somewhat before deciding where to put bishops. 4.Nxd4 exd4 5.c3 Immediately challenging the centre. 5...Bc5 Naturally, Black cannot allow cxd4, ceding the centre completely. 6.O-O c6 7.cxd4 Bxd4 8.Ba4 d6 9.h3 White decides to spend a move to limit Black's developmental possibilities. With g5 denied to the B/c8, Black will have difficulty in developing the Q-side effectively. 9...Qg5?! Black goes chasing butterflies. An attack can only be carried out successfully from a position of strength. Black neither has enough pieces developed nor weaknesses to target. As such, his premature foray is doomed to failure and the Q/g5 becomes a vulnerable target. 10.Qf3 Nf6 Note how the natural placing of the N now blocks the retreat of the Q. 11.Nc3 O-O 12.Ne2! Seizing control of the centre. Black's B and Q are sadly exposed and without support from the rest of Black's forces. White will now gain time kicking them around. 12...Bb6 13.d4 Now the centre has been won by White. 13...Qa5 14.Bc2 Ne8? Black cannot allow White to leisurely secure the centre, but must contest it. 14...Ne8 intends to do this by freeing the f-pawn and by maneuvering to c7 to support d5, but this 'anti-development', when the Black Q-side is still undeveloped, is too time-consuming. 14...Re8 was best here. 15.Qc3!? When faced with an aggressive centre, the defending side may want to exchange, the logic being that the fewer pieces on the board, the fewer pieces the attacking side has to support the centre (remember, a centre must be sufficiently supported to be useful, otherwise, it is

merely a target for the enemy to attack.) The Q exchange now, however, will further strengthen White's centre by deflecting the p/b2 to c3. This move also sets an insidious trap... 15...f5? ...into which Black falls. The attempt to undermine the centre fails because Black's development is just not sufficient to support such thrusts, and 15...f5 weakens the K-side, in particular the g6 square and the a2-g8 diagonal, on which the King is sitting. 16.Bb3+! A clever interposition; now, Black's most tenacious defence is 16...d5, but after 17.e5, the protected passed pawn constitutes a definite advantage for White. 16...Kh8 17.Qf3 Pinning the f5 pawn. 17...Qb4 Black doesn't sense the danger he is in, and continues to waste too much time. 18.a3 Qb5 19.Nf4! Suddenly, the air around Black's King is getting quite hot. Black must parry the threat of Qh5 and Ng6+. Because of this, both of the White centre pawns are immune! Black's most tenacious defence is 19...g6! You can work out what White should do then for yourself. 19...fxe4? I had already said that both pawns were immune. 20.Ng6+ hxg6 21.Qxf8+ Kh7 22.Qg8#. Note how Black's B/c8 never left the back rank, disrupted coordination of Black's rooks, and hindered his defence. In contrast, White's B/c1, occupying the c1-h6 diagonal (cleared for it, incidentally, by White's central dominance), was already well placed to support White's attack. There are cases, though rare, where a piece is ideally developed on its original square!

EJCC December Dexterity

by Adam Wu, TD

The sudden appearance of five(!) unrated newcomers at once swelled the ranks of hardy contestants to fifteen on this frigid morn. Apparently, word has spread quickly of organizer Ford Wong's charm since the training session a week ago.

The Kirvans arrived five minutes late, and as a result, Paul had to accept a first round bye. Helen actually should have had that bye, since she was lowest ranked, but I thought at first that she was still unrated. Being a believer in sibling equality, I managed to shuffle the bye to Helen a little later.

Once again, D. Wu was off in volleyland with his school team, while C. Wu was frantically studying due to some strange, unexplained impulse. Though the competition was a bit stiffer this time around, in the absence of the ACR editor, **Matthew Wong** once again had little difficulty in capturing first place with 4.5/5, surrendering only a single draw in his last round game with Paul Kirvan. The under-1000/unr section was

claimed by **Roy Dorman** after a harrowing three-player playoff with Helen Kirvan and David Rutledge. Each scored 2.5/5. Helen picked up her first ever win, and proceeded to go undefeated from then on in.

Action was fast and furious while the plethora of novices struggled with some of the finer aspects of tournament play, such as touch move, chess clocks, time scrambles (note: one does not have to call one's own flag down) and the like. While the more experienced players slugged it out, the younger players finished quickly and gathered around the laptop computer games generously provided by Mr. Seitz.

In round 4 in a time scramble, Matylda Machnowski missed two rather pretty sacrificial mate combinations against Bernie Kan's wandering King. In round 5, Duncan Campbell unfortunately stumbled into a rather vicious 'mill' featuring a hammering rook and raking bishops after Arthur Kan had dropped a queen somehow. In the last regular tournament game to be completed, Matthew Wong spurned the safe draw in a Q+1P vs Q+1P ending against Paul Kirvan, played for the win, and got a draw anyways.

The EJCC welcomes the following new players: Roy Dorman, Brian Chan, Bryan Yu, Carol Chan, and David Rutledge. Don't worry, I got creamed in my first tournament too.

The middlegame is the most complex part of the chess game. But there isn't much that one can study on the middlegame. Here is where experience is needed. The ability to sense positional subtleties and seize tactical opportunities usually comes with simply playing chess games. Thus my only advice for players who aspire to improve their middlegame is this: learn the basic tactical ploys and positional elements and then play more, play often, and play opponents who are capable of creaming you.

It is essential in the middlegame to develop a plan. This plan must be concrete. You should have specific goals and targets, as well as a fairly specific idea of exactly where you have to put your pieces to achieve these goals. Of course, you cannot forget about your opponent's plans, and usually a well-played middlegame is a balance of furthering your own plans and thwarting your opponent's.

Now let's look at a game. We must first take into account the tournament perspective. It is the last round, and the White player is leading the Black player by half a point. There are no other games remaining to be played, and this game will decide first place. White decides to play it safe, to ensure a draw if a win is not possible. Black needs a win, and will have to pull out all the stops.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 This is known as a Najdorf Sicilian, one of the most popular lines of the Open Sicilian. Let's examine some of the positional elements at this stage. Black has a 2-to-1 pawn majority in the centre and a half-open c-file to use as an avenue of attack. White has a central pawn on e4 controlling the squares d5 and f5 on Black's side of the board, a lead in development, and a powerfully centralized N/d4, which is watching squares deep in Black's camp. An unbalanced situation thus exists where both players under normal circumstances are best advised to play aggressively for a win. Of course, due to the tournament situation, White will be content to draw. 6.Be2 This is the safe alternative. 6.Bg5 is the aggressive choice. 6...e5 Black drives away White's strong N at the cost of weakening his own d5 square. The move also stakes a claim in the centre, and controls f4 and d4. 7.Nb3 Be7 8.O-O b5 The b-pawn moves forward to provide space for the Q-side pieces and to eventually chase away White's defending N/c3, thereby exposing the p/c2 to attack along the c-file. It also controls c4, a central square that White will have difficulty contesting, for b3 weakens the c-file a great deal. If Black can establish a piece such as a N on c4, he will be hitting into the heart of White's position. 9.a3 Bb7 10.f3?! With this and the 9th move, White broadcasts his intention to play a defensive game. But 10.f3 weakens the a7-g1 diagonal, a factor which Black can use to his advantage. 10...Nbd7 Here Black could have immediately exploited f3 with Qb6+ followed by Nc6, completing his development. Instead, Black adopts the plan of occupying the c- and d-files with rooks, then preparing the d5 central break by N/d7-b6 to open the files on the Q-side of centre as avenues of attack against White's Q-side pawns. White, for his part, concentrates all his efforts into thwarting Black's ideas, aiming thereby to either secure his needed draw, or to goad Black into overextending and making errors on which he can capitalize to win. 11.Be3 Rc8 12.Rc1 O-O 13.Qd2 Nb6 14.Na5 An extra defender of c4. 14...Ba8 15.Rfd1 Qc7 16.Kh1 Rfd8 17.Bxb6 Qxb6 Of course, every exchange brings White closer to his goal. But the B/e3 is an important defender of the a7-g1 diagonal weakened by f3. 18.Nb3 White is still playing 'wait-and-see' and has conceded several important position elements, such as the a7-g1 diagonal, to his opponent. 18...d5! This key central break is typical of many Sicilians. Black uses his central 2-1 pawn majority to remove White's strong e-pawn, eliminating the space advantage White gained from the opening. Note how all of Black's pieces are working together to control the key

central squares, files, and diagonals. 19.exd5 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 Bxd5 21.Qe1 Bg5! 22.Nd2 This is the critical position. Black has wrested total central control, and commands the entire board. But White has conceded no material and no weaknesses. He will now try to break the central tension and liquidate, through exchanges along the open files, to an equal ending. After considerable thought, Black tried 22...Be6? 23.Bd3 Qd4 24.Rb1 Ba2 25.Nb3 Threatening, among other things, Bxh7+ if the black Q remains on the diagonal. 25...Qf4 26.Ra1 Bxb3 27.cxb3 Rd4 28.Bf1 Rc2 29.Rb1 Rxd1 30.Qxd1 Qd2 Exchanges resulted in an endgame that was quickly drawn. Black tries to maintain the tension by keeping the Queens on the board; the weakness of his own back rank would give White enough counterplay to hold the balance (at least). For example: If 30...Rd2, 31.Qc1 Qe3 32.Qc8+ Bd8 33.Qxa6 Bb6 34.Bxb5 Qf2 35.Qc8+, followed by the Q returning to the K's defence, etc. Let's return now to the critical position after 22.Nd2. Does Black have a win? White's pieces are all clumped together, with little mobility, but he has managed to hold the balance on the Q-side. Black's central domination, however, adds a new factor to the equation, for the control of the centre allows Black to swing his pieces to EITHER SIDE. Note the square formed by the diagonal h1-f3 and the paucity of defences around the White King! It appears Black wins with 22...Qh6!! White is now in virtual zugzwang. Neither the N/d2, R/c1 or Q/e1 can move without loss of material. Black threatens both Bf4-Qxh2#, and Be6, winning the pinned N/d2. 23.g3 is met by 23...Bxd2 24.Rxd2 Bxf3+! winning. The most tenacious defence I can find is 23.Bd3 Bf4 24.h3 Be6 25.Qe2 (to prevent 25...Bxh3 26.gxh3 Qxh3+ 27.Kg1 Bh2+ winning the Q/e1. Both Bf1 and Qf1 lose to Bxd2, while after 25.Qf2 Rxd3 26.cxd3 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 Bxd2 28.Qa7 g6 Black's 2 B's are more than a match for the White R). 25...Be4! (this move is also possible after Qf2), reverting to the d-file/h6-c1 diagonal pin. Flexibility is required in attack. White has no defence to 26...Bxd3. I have been unable to find any saving defence for White, though I may be wrong. Either way, 22...Qh6, opening a second front of attack, was Black's best winning chance.

A final note: in 1995 the EJCC has moved to City Hall—the hot air is helpful in Edmonton winters, and conducive to clear thinking. Due to the rental times on the room, the tournaments will have to begin at 11:00 am sharp. So no lates! We've "hired" the ACR editor to dream up various "incentives" for punctuality (*perhaps punctuality?*—ed.).

CALGARY JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

Site: McDougall United Church, 8516 Athabasca St SE. Selected Saturdays. Entry fee \$3. Registration 9:30 a.m. (rd 1 at 10:00). Interested in playing or helping out?—*contact Andrew Beingessner (249-3384).*

CJCC Tournament Schedule

Jan 21 Feb 18 Mar 18 Apr 22 May 27

EDMONTON JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

Tourneys some Saturdays. Site: Heritage Room, City Hall, 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square. 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Due to limited time, tournament registration is promptly at 11:00. Low entry fees. Usually active chess (30 minutes per player). CFC/ACA memb. needed. Equipment is supplied. Interested in playing or helping?—*call Ford Wong (481-6474) or Mark Kirvan (939-5986).*

EJCC Tournament Schedule

City Hall: Feb 4 Mar 4

Location to be confirmed: Apr 1 May 6

COREL DRAW

**UNDER 10, UNDER 12,
UNDER 14 and UNDER 18**

For more information contact: Paul Usselman (270-0493). Note: eligibility is based on age as of January 1, 1995.

Calgary Regional

February 11

Location: Lord Nelson Inn, 1020-8 Ave SW. Register: 9:00-9:45 am. Entry Fee: \$10.00. Contact: Paul Usselman (270-0493).

Edmonton Regional

February 11

Location: Edmonton Room, Centennial Library (downtown), 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square. Register: 9:00-9:45 am. Entry Fee: \$10.00. Contact: Ford Wong (481-6474).

Alberta Finals

March 11

Location: Lord Nelson Inn, 1020-8 Ave SW. Register: 9:00-9:45 am. Entry Fee: \$20.00. Contact: Paul Usselman (270-0493).

CANADIAN CHESS CHALLENGE

Each of grades 1-12. For more information, contact: Jim Daniluk (248-7456, Calgary).

Edmonton Regional

February 18

Location: Grandview Heights Elem. and Jr High, 6225-127 St. Register: 9:00-9:45 am. Contact: Ford Wong (481-6474).

Calgary Regional

February 25

Location: Salvation Army Childrens Village, 1731-29 St SW. Register: 9:00-9:45 am. Contact: Jim Daniluk (248-7456).

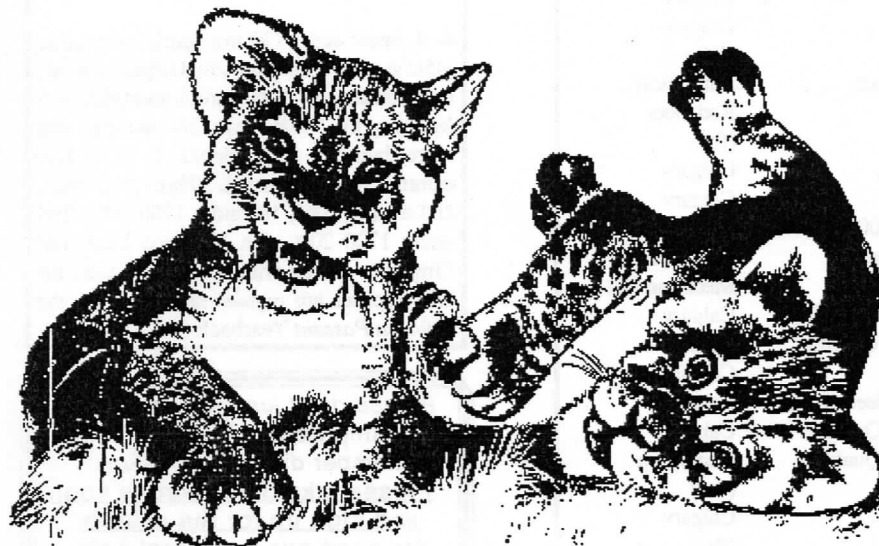
Other CCC Regionals

For dates and locations of other regionals please contact Jim Daniluk (248-7456).

Alberta Finals

March 25

Location: St Clement Catholic Elem./Jr High, 7620 Mill Woods Rd S, Edmonton. Register: 9:00-9:45 am. Contact: Ford Wong (481-6474).



Well, it is a cute picture, and this is the junior chess section, and I did need something to fill this space...

Hey...Adam...here's a game...

The Seitz family (Peace River) must be clairvoyant, what with Adam Wu's comment in the EJCC November Nicety report (page 7) that "It has been a long time since I've had a game to annotate, since no one hands anything in...". This game, won by 9-year-old Angie Seitz, may not have been handed in, but it was mailed in. It's from round 1 of the 'EJCC Jumping January' tournament.

Angie Seitz (1063)-Duncan Campbell (1351)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 a6 5.Bxc6 b7xc6 6.d4 d6 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxf7+ Ke7 11.Nxh8 g6 12.Bg5 Bg7 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.e5 Re8 15.O-O Kf7 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Bxf6 Kxf6 18.Rfe1 Rb8 19.Rad1 Bf5 20.h4 Rxb2 21.Ne4+ Kf7 22.f3 Rxc2 23.g4 Bxe4 24.Rxe4 Rb2 25.h5 gxh5 26.gxh5 Rb5 27.Rh4 Rg5+ 28.Kh1 c5 29.h6 Kg8 30.h7+ Kh8 31.Rd8+ Black resigned. (1-0)

Solution to 'John Q Tests You' Problem

(position on page 6—try it first)

The position is from Suba's book, *Dynamic Chess Strategy*. The solution is so tricky you might not even know when you've solved it. It's an excellent example of cunning and subtlety in chess, rather than brute force and flashy sacrifices. Suba gives the main line: 1.Kc6 g1(Q) 2.Nxh4 Q-moves 3.Nhf3 draw. That's it. Do you believe it?

Black's king is forever doomed to sit on h5, and the queen alone can make no progress. It is easy to see that the queen cannot be sacrificed for either knight, so White moves his king aimlessly around the board until Black agrees to a draw. Note the purpose of White's first move. On c6, the king is protected from checks on Black's second move.

Suba gives no other lines, so I looked at a few possibilities for Black (*by the way, 'John Q' is, of course, 'John Quiring'—ed.*):

1.Kc6 Kg5 2.Nf3+ Kxf3 3.Nxh4+ Kg4 4.Nxg2 Kf3 5.Ne3 is at least a draw for White, e.g. 5...h5 6.Kb5 (*not 6.Kc5—ed.*) h4 7.Kxc4 h3 8.Nf1, and the pawn can never advance because of lines such as 8...Kf2 9.Nh2 Kg2 10.Ng4 Kg3 11.Ne3 h2 12.Nf1+ (wins the pawn).

1. Kc6 h3 2.Ng3+ Kh4 3.Ne2 White threatens 4.Nf3+ followed by 5.Nh2, locking up the position and winning, so Black must try either 3...g1(Q) 4.Nxg1 h2 5.Ngf3+ Kg3 6.Nxh2 Kxh2 7.Ng4+ (wins for White), or 3...h2 4.Nf3+ Kh3 5.Nxh2 Kxh2 6.Kc5 and Black has nothing better than 6...g1(Q) 7.Nxg1 Kxg1 8.Kxc4 draw.

*** JANUARY OPEN ***
January 28-29 Calgary

Lord Nelson Inn
1020-8 Ave SW

5 round Swiss System
Register: 9:00-9:45 am
(Rd 1: 10:00 am)
Entry Fee: \$20 senior \$15 junior
(CFC/provincial membership required)
Time Controls: 40/1:50 15/30

☎ Paul Usselman (270-0493)

☉ NORTHERN ALBERTA OPEN ☉
February 25-26 Edmonton

Last 1995 Alberta Closed Qualifier
Univ. of Alberta; Students' Union Bldg.
(114 St & 89 Ave); Main Function Room
(room 021: basement, behind arcade)

5 round Swiss System
Register: 9:00-9:45 am (Rd 1: 10:00 am)
Entry Fee: \$20 senior \$15 junior
(CFC/provincial membership required)
Time Controls: 40/1:50 15/30

☎ Len Steele (487-8652)

☆ 'MARCH OF KINGS' OPEN ☆
March 18-19 Calgary

Lord Nelson Inn
1020-8 Ave SW

5 round Swiss System
Register: 9:00-9:45 am
(Rd 1: 10:00 am)
Entry Fee: \$20 senior \$15 junior
(CFC/provincial membership required)
Time Controls: 40/1:50 15/30

☎ Paul Usselman (270-0493)

ACA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE FOR 1995
(For most events, additional information is published in the *ACR*—there are separate ads for tournaments listed in **bold** below; check future issues for updates on other events. Where a contact is given, you may wish to phone to verify details. All events are believed to be: no smoking, no computers.)

Jan 28-29	Calgary January Open	Calgary
Feb 25-26	Northern Alberta Open	Edmonton
Mar 18-19	Calgary March of Kings Open	Calgary
Mar 25	Swan City Active	Grand Prairie
Apr 14-16	Alberta Closed	Calgary
Apr 14	Alberta Active	Calgary
Apr 15-16	Alberta Reserves	Calgary
May 6-7	University of Alberta Open	Edmonton
Jun 3-4	Red Deer Open	Red Deer
Jun 17	Battle of Alberta	(tba)
Jul 1-3	Calgary July Open	Calgary
Aug 12	Calgary Active	Calgary
Sep 2-3	Alberta Over / Under 1800	Edmonton
Sep 16	Grande Prairie Fall Active	Grand Prairie
Sep 23-24	Medicine Hat Open	Medicine Hat
Sep 30-Oct 1	Southern Alberta Junior Qualifier	Calgary
	Northern Alberta Junior Qualifier	Edmonton
Oct 7-9	Alberta Open	Calgary
Oct 8	ACA Annual General Meeting	Calgary
Oct 21-22	Southern Alberta Cadet Qualifier	Calgary
	Northern Alberta Cadet Qualifier	Edmonton
Oct 28-29	Alberta Junior	(tba)
Nov 25-26	Southern Alberta Open	Calgary
Dec 9-10	Alberta Cadet	(tba)
Dec 16-17	Two Weekends Before Xmas Open	Edmonton

Clocks, vinyl boards, chess pieces for sale. The ACA plans to make them available at as many as possible of the ACA-sponsored tournaments.

1994-95 11TH ANNUAL ALTA-B.C. PEACE RIVER GRAND PRIX

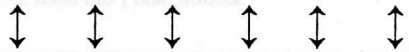
Remaining G.P. Events

Feb 18 Dawson Creek Spring Active
Dawson Creek, B.C.
☎ Jim Kanester (604) 782-5637

Mar 25 Swan City Active
Grande Prairie, Alta
☎ Jim Roy (403) 568-3961

4-rd, rated: active (30 min/game) *or* regular (45/2 the 30/1). To qualify for GP prize (points based on sum of 4 best scores), *must play in at least 4 of the 5 GP events*. No one may win more than one prize. Based on \$1.50 fee/entrant/event: 1st overall 30% of prize fund, 2nd overall 20%; 1st under 1700 30%, 2nd under 1700 20%. Jim Williams Memorial Trophy to overall winner. Ratings used for GP purposes are *regular* ratings as per the 1994 *En Passant* Yearbook (i.e. August).

Please don't just 'wait and see'!
We simply cannot contact every member directly ourselves.
Please take the initiative soon and sign up for the casino.
We need our members' help.
☎ We need your help ☎
Thank you in advance!



Next ACA Casino in Edmonton May 19-20, 1995

The ACA will host its second casino, in Edmonton, Friday-Saturday, May 19-20, 1995. A casino can raise a lot of money with relatively little effort. Our first casino, in Calgary, raised over \$21,000. Great support was shown by Calgary ACA members. *We hope the same will be true of Edmonton-area members.*

We must rely on members, especially Edmontonians this time, for support. We need volunteers to work the casino. Signup forms will be posted at the Edmonton and Calgary clubs. If you can help, please sign up or call Ford Wong (481-6474). **Volunteers must register several months in advance—please don't wait too long.**