

# ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

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## ROCKET TRIUMPHANT IN WEEKEND BEFORE XMAS OPEN

### HOW THE GARDNERINCH STOLE XMAS - THE WEEKEND BEFORE CHRISTMAS By Ford Wong

There were 15 whos down in Edmonwho-ville who came to celebrate the "Weekend Before Xmas". Five of whom were of the Master and Expert who level strength. These included Huberwho, Gardnerwho also known as Rocketwho, Reevewho, Yearwoodwho and Hugheywho. Noticibly missing was Daveywho who did drop by for a visit with his sidekick Jimwho. Everywho at Edmonwho-ville were celebrating the "Weekend Before Xmas" by playing for points and having fun. Chess merriment was everywhere. Clocks were ticking. Plastic pieces were tapping, etc. But there was one who amongst them, who decided that he would ruin the "Weekend Before Xmas" by taking as many points as he could and ultimately the big prize. So he crept out from his lair high on the mountain and proceeded to take points. He started at the Andersonwho house, then the Hayneswho house and then the Huberwho house. In round four, Rocketwho met up with Reevewho and not Cindy Lou Who and both had to settle for half. Reevewho, who after having narrowly escaped from Chiwho in round one, was like Rocketwho and had a chance to win it all too but settled for a draw with Yearwoodwho leaving Rocketwho with the choice of sharing it all with a draw or taking it all with a win. However, Rocketwho with an endgame advantage, didn't think twice as he said "I don't care if all the Whos in Edmonwho-ville cry BOO HOO" and he took the full point at the Hugheywho House. With 4.5 points, Rocketwho had all the points he needed to ruin the Weekend Before Xmas for all the whos. He just quietly stuffed the first place prize into his sack and went home, not before going to the WendyWho restaurant with some of the left over whos. And this year, Rocketwho got to carve the roast beast. And this was how Gardnerinch Stole the Weekend Before Christmas.

For the Weekend Before Xmas, the "Battle of Albertawho" trophy was proudly on display for all whos to see, which inspired many a Northern who to beat upon the

Southern whos in some key matchups. Gardnerwho-Huberwho (1-0), Huberwho-Hugheywho (0-1). And this was almost demonstrated in Hayneswho-Yearwoodwho where Nickywho missed a pretty winning combo-who.

A great big thanks to the southern whos and the out of town whos who came to play. And a warm welcome to William Grahamwho who was playing in his first real live over the board against other whos tournament.

Winners of the Weekend Before Christmas were:

1st Open: Rob Gardner.  
2nd Open: Jeff Reeve  
1st & 2nd Under 1800 was split with Alexander Kazakevich and Jonathan Chi.

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and hope that the Gardnerinch didn't pay your house a visit on Christmas eve. Hang onto your points.

### Roy Yearwood - Alvin Pasco

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+**  
This move is sometimes difficult to deal with. Ashton Anderson - Roy Yearwood, Southern Alberta Open 2000 continued 3...Nc6 4.0-0 Bd7 5.Re1 e5. This attempt to hold the dark squares proves untenable. 6.c3 Nf6 7.d4 Qc7 8.a4 Be7 9.Bg5!? h6 10.Bh4 cxd4?! 11.cxd4 Nb4 12.Nc3 a6 13.Bxd7+ Nxd7 14.Bxe7 Kxe7 15.Rac1 Qb6 16.dxe5 dxe5 +/- White has a large edge in this position and was able to bring tremendous pressure to bear but could only draw (sigh)

**3...Bd7 4.a4 Qc7 5.0-0 e6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 Be7 8.d4 cxd4**

Black adopts a central plan similar to the above game.

**9.cxd4 a6 10.Bd3 e5 11.Nc3 h6 12.Nd5**  
Since Black is behind in development White seeks to open the position.

**12...Nxd5 13.exd5 0-0 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Nxe5 Bc8 16.Qh5 Qd6 17.Nc4 Qf6 18.Bd2**

This move occurred to me within a minute of my opponent's move, but I followed Lasker's recommendation that you should look for a better one if you can. Both 18.Qe2 and 18.Re3 are also possible.

**18...Bc5 19.Qe2 Bd7 20.Bc3 Qg5 21.b4 Ba7 22.Qe5**

Played to convert the pawn plus in the endgame if Black agrees to exchange. If not, then the position of my pieces is improved.

**22...f5 23.Qe7 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Qf4+ 25.Kg1**

And White won without much effort. 1-0 (Yearwood)

### Round 1

#### Jonathan Chi - Jeff Reeve

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.b3 g6 5.Bb2 Bg7 6.e4 d6 7.Nd2 0-0 8.Qc2 bxc4 9.Bxc4 a5 10.Ngf3 a4 11.Rb1 axb3 12.Bxb3 Na6 13.a3 Bg4 14.0-0 Nd7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qc3+ Kg8 17.Rfe1 Nc7 18.a4 Na6 19.e5 Nb4 20.e6 fxe6 21.dxe6 Nf6 22.Ng5 Nfd5 23.Bxd5 Nxd5 24.Qc4 Nf6 25.Nde4 Nxe4 26.Qxe4 Bf5 27.Qh4 h5 28.Ra1 Rb8 29.h3 Rb4 30.f4 Rf6 31.a5 Qa8 32.a6 Rb2 33.Qg3 Qa7 34.Qa3 Rb6 35.Qa4 Rf8 36.Qd7 Ra8 37.Kh2 c4 38.Rac1 Bd3 39.Red1 Rxa6 40.Rxd3 cxd3 41.Rc7 Qe3 42.Rc4 R6a7 43.Qb5 Ra2 44.Qd7 Rxg2+ 45.Kxg2 Ra2+ 0-1

### Round 2

#### Greg Huber - Roy Yearwood

Before the start of the tournament Greg Huber heard that I had taken an early bus up to Edmonton, so he declared that he wanted to get a hold of me in one of the early rounds.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2**

My opponent has had good results against me with various Closed Sicilian setups and sees no reason to vary.

**4...Bg7 5.d3 e6 6.Be3 Nd4 7.Qd2 Nge7?!**

Black is unaware of the standard procedure to inhibit White's central ambitions. Perhaps 7...Qa5 is better.

**8.Nd1 d6 9.c3 Ndc6 10.Bh6 0-0 11.h4**

Very aggressive. The former Alberta Champion wants to go home early.

**11...f6 !?**

Maybe not necessary at the moment., but after my Alberta Closed game versus Arthur Odachowski in 1999 where I tried a similar plan with Bh6 and achieved nothing versus f6, I felt it was worth a go.

**12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.f4**

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

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**Deadline for next issue: March 31, 2001**

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

**Submissions**  
Send email to the editor at:  
[webmaster@albertachess.org](mailto:webmaster@albertachess.org)

Or mail to  
**Alberta Chess Association**  
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Games preferably sent in PGN format with no special formatting or characters - just plain ASCII text. Games sent in another format run the risk of being tossed.

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## EDITORIAL

At time of writing, chess players in Edmonton are playing in the yearly closed tournament, but with a fascinating twist: it will be played in a knockout format. Under this new system, there will be 16 contestants. Each round will consist of two full length rated games, ties being resolved by two unrated games of 60 minutes per player. Sets of two 15-minute games will then occur to resolve a further tie, ad infinitum. Eliminated players are moved into the Edmonton Reserves. It is apparent that this arrangement will still result in the strongest player emerging triumphant. If this innovation proves a success, it may be utilised in other tournaments in this province.

The Edmonton chess club has recently taken delivery of some splendid chess boards and pieces, similar to the ones played on by the grandmasters in the Canadian Open. What with the smoothness of the board surface it is possible to slide a piece right across it with little effort. With practice it is may be possible to play a move in such a fashion. In my opinion, games played on these boards will be of increased quality - for a player to deface such a nice board with shoddy moves would be scandalous.

For next issue I hope to print reports from Calgary; if anybody from there is reading, please send some material!

'Til next time,  
Alan Clark B.Sc.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year complete in the ACA, and quite a year. For the first time in four years, the Canadian Open was held in Alberta, and the first time in eleven years in Edmonton. Congratulations and kudos go out to the organizing committee of John Quiring, Ford Wong, Adrien Regimbald, and Peter Alderton [And the author - Ed]. Special congratulations for a fantastic effort and event to the chair of the committee Dr. Grant Brown! Everyone who ordered a tournament book should have received it by now, and I hope you are all pleased by it.

Within more mundane ACA news, the annual scheduling and budgeting meetings have been held recently. The ACA schedule for the year 2001 is "more of what you love...chess!", as generally speaking, all of the same events are scheduled in the same cities. One concern for the ACA board has been in Calgary, where we have had difficulties finding willing directors and reason-

ably priced sites. To alleviate the first, the ACA is planning a TD Workshop in Calgary in the next few months. To alleviate the second, Tom McKay is examining a variety of sites within Calgary, but anyone with ideas to offer is invited to discuss them with Tom. I personally suggested that the Saddledome would become available one day after the end of the regular season hockey schedule, but was met with sour looks.

Also within Calgary, a new chess club has started up under the supervision of Dr. Ron Hinds at the Bridgeland Community Center. At the ACA budget meeting, the board agreed to help fund this club's startup costs, including equipment and rent. The club is being formed to deal with some of the issues that some Calgarians have expressed regarding the current site of the Calgary chess club. Hopefully, both clubs will be able to co-exist peacefully and really boost the level of play in Calgary (I will leave out the gratuitous Battle of Alberta reference here).

Other major ACA projects for the year include an increase to the funding for both the CYCC age group winners and the Chess Challenge grade winners, the introduction of an honorarium for the ACA web site maintainer (<http://www.albertachess.org>), and the purchase of equipment to aid Dr. Bill Taylor in introducing an expansive chess in schools project in Medicine Hat. Dr. Taylor has already done extensive work and fundraising to get this project going, and presented an eloquent proposal to expand it at the Budget meeting. He is to be commended for his excellent initiative in getting things going!

Finally, the ACA's next casino is in Calgary later this year, so please refrain from obtaining a criminal record until after the casino, as this may prevent you from volunteering. The more volunteers, the better the casino is for all of us, and the easier it is for everyone. Casino revenue pays for a great deal of the ACA's expenditures, so unless you are in favor of massive membership rate increases, sign up and volunteer! It's about the easiest way to make tens of thousands dollars in a weekend of which I know.

As always, anyone with questions or comments about the ACA is invited to contact me by phone or email.

David "268" Ottosen  
[dottosen@powersurfr.com](mailto:dottosen@powersurfr.com)

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Played to make the response g5 untenable after an eventual h5 by White.

13...d5 14.Nf2 b5 15.h5 Rb8

With my last 2 moves, 14...b5 and 15...Rb8, I intended to make it unsafe for the White king on the queenside. My long range infiltration plan, if possible, was ...b4, ...Qa5, ...bxc3, ...Qa3, and ...Rb2, which I learned from my Arthur Oda-chowski game.

16.Nf3 b4 17.hxg6 bxc3!

After 17...hxg6 White has the option of keeping lines closed with c4

18.bxc3 hxg6 19.f5

The following sequence of moves to 22...Ke6 was seen by both players and thought to be okay.

19...exf5 20.exd5 Nxd5 21.Qh6+ Kf7 22.Qh7+ Ke6 23.0-0 Kd6 24.Nd2

Frustrated that the Black king is still alive and short of time White goes astray.

24...Qe7 25.Qxg6 Nxc3 26.Nc4+ Kc7 27.Rfe1 Qf7?!

Huber pointed out that 27...Ne2+ 28.Kf1 Ncd4 would have been difficult for White.

28.Qh6 Nd5? 29.Bxd5 Qxd5 30.Qxf8 +- Though Black resisted for a further 21 moves, the result is not in doubt. There is no one to blame but myself [Gardner adds: and the morning bus ride] for this atrocious display since at move 28 I was up over 40 minutes on the clock (i.e. no time pressure). 1-0 (Yearwood)

### Round 3

#### Rob Gardner - Greg Huber

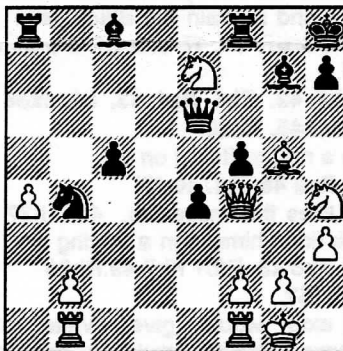
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 g6 6.c4 Bg7 7.Nb3 Nc6 8.Nc3 Nge7 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 f5 11.exf5 gxf5

12.Be3 b6 13.Qd2 Ng6 14.Bh6 Rf7 15.Bxg7 Rxd7 16.f4 Bb7 17.Rf2 Nh4 18.Bf1 Kh8 19.Re1 Qf6 20.Re3 Rag8 21.Ne2 h5 22.Rg3 Na5 23.Nxa5 bxa5 24.Rxg7 Qxg7 25.Ng3 Qf7 26.Qe2 Rg4 27.Qe5+ Kh7 28.Be2 Bxg2 29.Rxg2 d6 30.Qxd6 Qb7 31.Rf2 1-0

### Round 4

#### Nic Haynes - Roy Yearwood

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nf3 g6 5.cxb5 a6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.e4 d6 8.a4 0-0 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.h3 axb5 11.Bxb5 Ne8 12.Bxd7 Qxd7 13.0-0 Nc7 14.Bf4 Na6 15.Na2 Qb7 16.Rab1 f5 17.e5 Qxd5 18.Nc3 Qc4 19.Qd2 g5 20.Bxg5 dxe5 21.Nd5 e4 22.Nxe7+ Kh8 23.Qf4 Qe6 24.Nh4 Nb4 25.Qc7



[25.Nhg6+- White misses a forced mate or win of the Queen here.] 25...Ba6 26.Rfd1 Nd3 27.Rd2 Rf7 28.a5 Be5 29.Qc6 Rxe7 30.Qxa8+ Re8 31.Qa7 Bb8 32.Bf6+ Qxf6 33.Qd7 Rd8 34.Qxf5 Qxh4 35.g3 After this the score sheet is unclear. Black went on to win. 0-1

#### Jeff Reeve - Rob Gardner

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Nc6 8.e5 h6 9.Bh4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 dxe5 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.fxe5 g5 13.Bg3 Nd7 14.0-0-0 Bg7 15.Bc4 Ke7 16.Rhe1 b5 17.Bd5 Rb8 18.Bc6 Rd8 19.Bxd7 Rxd7 20.Ne4 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Bb7 22.Nc5 Bxg2 23.Rd7+ Ke8 24.Rc7 Bd5 25.Nxa6 Rd8 26.Rc5 h5 27.Nc7+ Ke7 28.h4 Bh6 29.Nxd5+ Rxd5 30.Rxd5 gxh4+ 31.Kd1 exd5 32.Bxh4+ Ke6 33.b3 Kxe5 34.a4 bxa4 35.bxa4 Kd4 36.Bf6+ Kc4 37.Ke2 Bf4 38.Bh4 Bc7 39.Be1 Bd6 40.Kf3 Bb4 41.a5 Bc5 42.Kf4 Kb5 43.Ke5 d4 44.Kf6 Bd6 45.Kxf7 Bc7 46.Kg6 Bxa5 47.Bf2 Kc4 48.Kxh5 1/2-1/2

### Round 5

#### Rob Gardner - Micah Hughey

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 Nc6 6.e4 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 Rb8 9.h3 e5 10.g4 h5 11.g5 Ne8 12.f5 gxf5 13.exf5 Bxf5 14.Nxe5 Bg6 15.Nxg6 fxg6 16.Bd5+ Kh8 17.Rxf8+ Bxf8 18.Qf3 Qe7 19.Bd2 Ne5 20.Qg2 Nc7 21.Be4 Bg7 22.Re1 Qd7 23.Nd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 b6 25.Bc3 Rf8 26.Be4 Qf7 27.Rf1 Qxf1+ 28.Qxf1 Rxf1+ 29.Kxf1 Kh7 30.Ke2 Bh8 31.d4 Nc4 32.dxc5 Bxc3 33.cxb6 axb6 34.bxc3 Kg7 35.Kd3 Ne5+ 36.Kd4 Kf8 37.Kd5 Ke7 38.c4 h4 39.a4 Kd7 40.c3 Nf7 41.Bxg6 Nxg5 42.Bf5+ Kc7 43.Bg4 Nf7 44.Ke6 Ng5+ 45.Kf5 Nf7 46.Be2 Kc6 47.Kg4 Kc5 48.Kxh4 Ne5 49.Kg5 Nxc4 50.Bxc4 1-0

## READER'S GAMES

#### Ron Hinds - Art Milne

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Nf3 e6 7. c5 Be7

The Gunderam Attack deferred

8. Bb5 O-O

Ron's trusty NCO opines 8...Bd7

9. O-O Ne4 10. Nxe4?

10.Bxc6 and 11.Ne5 with a slight plus for White

10... dxe4 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. Ne5 Qd5!

With the initiative and a strong plus for Black

13. f4

Forced against ...Bxc5

13... Ba6 14. Re1 Rfd8 15. Be3 f6 16. Ng4 Qf5!

Tying the White Q down to protecting the errant Ng4, and incidentally threatening Bxc5

17. Rc1?

17.b4! offers the only hope for counter-

play on the diagonal a2-g8. Black's next scotches White's last remaining hope

17... Rab8 18. b3 h5 19. Nf2 e5 20. fxe5 fxe5 21. h3 Bf6 22. g4 hxg4 23. hxg4 Qg6 24. d5 Rxd5 25. Qc2 Bd3 26. Qc3 Bh4! 27. Rf1 Bxf1 28. Rxf1 Bxf2+ 29. Rxf2 Rd1+ 30. Kh2 Qh7+ 31. Kg3 Rg1+ 32. Rg2 Rxd2+ 33. Kxg2 Qg6 34. Qc4+ Kh8 35. Qe2 Rf8 36. g5 Qf7 37. Qd2 Qf3+ 38. Kh2 Kh7 39. Kg1 Qg3+ 0-1 (Milne)

#### Juraj Pivovarov - Mike Smith

#### Southern Alberta Open

1. c4

Mike and I played a very interesting game, and one that teaches a valuable lesson. White gets a space advantage early on and launches a kingside attack. However, he remains with his king uncastled, and fails to pay attention to closing the center. Black defends well, and once the center opens up, takes control.

1...Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. Nc3 c6 5. e4 O-O 6. d4 d6 7. Nf3 Bg4 8. h3 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Nbd7 10. g4 c5 11. Be3

11. d5 with the idea of closing the center. 11... b6 ?!

I didn't understand this move

12. g5 Ne8

Black's position starts to get a little cramped.

13. h4 Nc7 14. Qd2 Rb8

A good move to assist in opening up the position on the queenside

15. a4 Ne6 16. Ne2?!

I didn't like this move for two reasons. First, 16. d5! is much stronger. Black's position stays cramped, and the center stays closed. Also, White would like to play 17. Ke2, followed by Rag1 at a later point. With 16. Ne2, this plan is ruled out.

16... Qc8 17. Bg4?

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A game loser. Blindly, White lets Black win a pawn, and open the center. 0-1.

17... cxd4 18. Nxd4 Bxd4 19. Bxd4 Qxc4 20. Bxe6

This move was played to try and get some compensation for the pawn in keeping control the a1-h8 diagonal.

(20. Rc1 20... Qxa4 protecting the N/d7 20... Qxe6

20... fxe6 is stronger as it allows Black's rook into the game.

21. f3 d5 22. Kf2 dxe4 23. Rae1 Nc5 24. Bxc5 bxc5 25. Rx4 Qd6 26. Qc3 Rb7 27. h5 Rfb8 28. Re2 Rb3 Black's rooks are very active and White can do nothing to stop them.

29. Rd2? 29... Rxc3 30. Rxd6 Rxb2+ 31. Kg3 exd6 32. Re1 Rb8 0-1 (Pivovarov)

### Juraj Pivovarov - Dave Miiward Calgary Open

1. c4 g6 2. e4 Bg7 3. d4 d6 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Bd3 O-O 6. Nge2 e5 7. d5 a5

To establish c5 as a good outpost for Black's N/b8. To dislodge it White would need to move his B/c1 then play a3 and b4.

8. O-O Nbd7 9. Bg5 h6 10. Bd2 Nc5 11. Bc2 Bd7 12. a3 a4 13. Be3

Black's P/a4 doesn't really fall since White's P/e4 will be weak if the Black knight stays at f6. All the Defenders of e4 will be lured away by the series of exchanges on a4.

13... Ne8?

Losing a clear pawn, for example 13... Re8 14. Bxc5 dxc5 15. Nxa4 Nxe4

14. Bxc5 dxc5 15. Nxa4 b6 16. Nac3 Nd6 17. Bd3

At this point, White has the edge. He is a clear pawn up and needs to pursue action on the queenside. Instead he reacts incorrectly to Black's ensuing kingside attack and gets into some trouble. The attack was played really well by my opponent.

17... f5 18. f3?!

18. b4 is important here

18... f4 19. Qe1 g5 20. g3?

Plays right into Black's hands. Again b4 is important.

20... g4 21. Kg2

The king is a strong defender.

21... Qc8 22. Ng1 h5 23. Rf2 23. Nf7

A very good move demonstrating a lot of foresight by Black. The knight comes around to help in the attack.

24. Kf1

The king has a change of heart and decides to flee and hopefully have time to launch a counter attack on the soon-to-be open files on the kingside.

24... Ng5 25. Ke2 fxc3 26. hxg3 gxf3+

27. Kd2

Allowing 27. Nxf3 27... Bg4 looks gross

27... Bg4

Now White has given back the pawn and with interest. His position is worse and he has to deal with a dangerous passed pawn.

28. Kc2 Nh3 29. Nxh3 Bxh3 30. Qh1 Qg4 31. Qh2

31. Rh2 is answered by 31... Bg2

31... Bg2 32. Nd1?

One of the errors. The knight wants e3 but after Black's Bh6, that becomes impossible. Having played Re1 first would have made that plan possible.

32... Bh6 33. Qh4 Qxh4 34. gxh4 Bf4 35. Bf1 Bg3 36. Rxg2 fxc2 37. Bxg2 Bxh4 38. Ne3 Bg3 39. Bh3

Rf3 40. Be6+ Kf8 41. Nf5

At least White's pieces are becoming active and restrain the Black king. Notice that d7, e7, f7 and g7 are all covered.

41...h4 42. Rh1 Ra4 43. d6 cxd6 44. Rd1 h3 45. Rxd6

With a mating threat on d8

45... Ra8 46. Rd7 Rxf5!

Fritz likes this move too. 46... h2? and Black finds himself in a mating net: 47. Rf7+ Kg8 48. Rf6+ Kh7 49. Rh6#

47. Bxf5?

47. exf5 would give White some chances. White would be the proud owner of a passed pawn, and his bishop would have the important a8-h1 diagonal.

47... h2 48. Rd1

48. Rh7 would be a much more active defense. Blockading with the rook at h1 is a poor choice, thereby choosing to play a full rook down.

48... Ke7 49. Kb3 Rd8 50. Rh1 Rg8 51. Ka4

White acknowledges that he cannot stop Black's plan of playing his rook to g1 and forcing an exchange. Once again, the bishop would be a much better blockader. With White's choice of setup, he is choosing to play with a rook down.

51...Bf4 52. Kb5 Rg1 53. Rxh2 Bxh2 54. Kxb6

White goes for the faint hope of trying to get two connected passed pawns on the queen side. In some cases they can be as strong as a rook. Here however, the Black king is too close to allow White an advantage, and also Black still has a bishop.

54... Rg2?!

54... Rb1 encourages White's resignation immediately.

55. b4 cxb4 56. axb4 Bg1+ 57. c5 Rb2 58. Kb5 Kd8 59. Be6 Bf2 60. Kc4 Kc7 61. Bd5 Be1 62. b5 Rc2+ 63. Kd3 Rxc5 64. Bc6 Rxc6 65. bxc6 Kxc6 66. Kc4

Here, White will try to keep the Black king away from e4. He can be annoying, but with Black being able to lose a move with his bishop, White is entirely lost.

66... Kd6 67. Kb5 Ke6 68. Kc4 Kf6 69. Kd3 Kg5 70. Ke3 Kg4 71. Ke2 Bc3 72. Ke3 Bd4+ 73. Ke2 Kf4 74. Kd3 Kf3

And White resigned. A big thanks to Sune Andersen, rated at 1969, for his comments and insights after the game.

0-1 (Pivovarov)

### Oliver Schulte - GM Jonathan Rowson

#### Canadian Open 2000

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 Nf6 4. Nc3 cd 5. Nd4 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. Bb3

A useful move that keeps as many of White's plans open as possible. In my most active chess days in the 80s, this was considered completely normal. GM Rowson told me after the game that he thought 7. Bb3 was unusual. Nunn's Chess Openings (NCO) has 7. Bb3 as the main line, however. Rowson's plan is now Nbd7-c5, b5, Bb7, Be7, 0-0. If White does not create some targets in Black's position, he can easily end up under a lot of pressure: Black has trains several pieces on White's e-pawn, and he can expand on the queenside with ...b4 and ...Rc8. White has a number of counterplans. One is to castle kingside, put his pieces on active positions and hope for tactical opportunities. This works only under special circumstances, such as those we will see in the game. Another possibility is to play Qf3, Be3 or Bg5, and castle queenside. This puts pressure on the d-file, might lead to an e4-e5 break, and sometimes opens attacking possibilities on the kingside with 4-g5. But the main plan for White is probably Fisher's theme a4-f5. The pressure on the e6 pawn typically forces Black to either capture on f5, by e6 x f5, or to push the e-pawn, e6-e5. In either case, White plays for control of the d5 square and perhaps for a kingside attack. Which of these plans White should choose depends on Black's exact move order, which in turn depends on what White commits himself too. Thus we have a complex situation in which move order is crucial. Rowson begins with 7...b5

An alternative plan is 7...Nbd7 8. f4 Nc5 9. f5 Be7 (not 9...Nfe4? 10. Ne4 Ne4 11. fe! Qh4+ 12. g3 Ng3 13. Nf3 Qh5 14. ef7+ which led to a quick win for White in Fischer-Bednarski, Game #55 of My Memorable Sixty Games) 10. Qf3. The nice thing for Black about this set-up is that the Bishop on c8 and Knight on c5

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sufficiently protect the e6 pawn, and so Black can play e6-e5 more or less at his discretion. On the other hand, White gets in f4-f5 with impunity, which guarantees him some initiative. After 7...b5, Black can meet 8.f4 with 8...Bb7. After 9. f5 e5 10. Nde2 Nbd7 White has difficulty controlling the crucial d5 square. In Fischer-Tal, Game 17 of Fischer's Memorable Sixty Games, Tal snatched the e-pawn after 8. f4 b4 9. Na4 Ne4. Fischer didn't like his position after that, but he did get a strong attack. After 7...b5, the main line in NCO is 8. 0-0 Be7. It's worth noting that 8...Bb7 is considered inaccurate because of 9. Re1! Nbd7 10. Bg5 when the sacrifice Nd5 is surprisingly hard to stop for Black (we have similar motives in the game). I played

#### 8. Bg5 Nbd7

An ambitious move. The main line is 8...Be7. Rowson told me after the game that he thought I wasn't "playing very energetically". Basically, he thought that 8. Bg5 is inaccurate and wanted to take advantage of it. The idea behind 8...Nbd7 is to reach one of the main lines with the White bishop on g5, which may not work well with the f4-f5 break. For example, after 9.f4 Bb7 looks unpleasant, with the simple threat of ...b4. After 10. f5 e5 11. Nde2 Qb6 Black has a good position. So White is more or less forced to abandon the f4-f5 plan. However, recall from the previous note the strong set-up 0-0, Re1 with a possible breakthrough sacrifice on d5.

#### 9. 0-0 Nc5

9...Bb7 10. Re1 Nbd7 transposes to the position discussed above.

#### 10. Re1 Bb7?

This transposes into one of the NCO lines. The difference between the line 8.0-0 Bb7 9. Re1 Nbd7 10. Bg5 and the game is that Black is ready to trade off the White bishop on b3 before he plays ...Bb7. That was the necessary measure now. After 10...Nb3 11. ab Bb7 12. b4!? Be7 13. Nb3 Rc8 14. Na5 Ba8 15. Qd4 we seem to have a dynamic position with chances for both sides. White has more space and a lead in development, but Black has a very strong bishop pair.

#### 11. Bd5!

Even though I learned later that this move is in the book, since I don't know much theory, I was on my own after 8...Nbd7. The sacrifice 11. Bd5, however, is easier to see and to play than it looks. Sacrificing something on d5 - whether the bishop or the knight - is a standard motive in this kind of Sicilian, especially with the rook on e1 and Black's king far from castling. Also, playing a grandmaster, I figured I was going

to lose anyway, so we might as well have an interesting game. The immediate tactical point of 11. Bd5 is that after 11...ed5 12. ed5+ Kd7 (not 12...Be7 because of 13. Nf5 winning back the piece) 13. b4 Black's knight on c5 has nowhere to retreat; after 13...Na4 14. Na4 ba 15. c4 White will win a second pawn with Qa4+ and continue a strong attack, while Black has an exposed king and great trouble completing his development. GM Joel Benjamin told me after the game that there was an old game of Fisher's that went this way, but I haven't been able to track it down. The main impact of 11.Bd5 is positional. First, White relieves the pressure on his e4 pawn. Second, instead of trading off one of White's best attacking pieces on b3, Black's knight becomes exposed on c5. Third, after the inevitable trade of the whitesquare bishops, Black's queenside pawns become a liability rather than a strength, vulnerable to attack by a4.

#### 11...Qb6

Black protects his bishop on b7, covers the c6 square and prepares to castle queenside. Not a comfortable place for his king, but better than being under fire in the centre. There don't seem to be any appealing alternatives. The previous note discussed 11...ed After 11...h6, 12. b4 is strong, and 11...b4 12. Bb7 Nb7 13. Nd5 ed 14. ed+ Kd7 15. Nc6 Qb6 16. Bf6 gf 17. Qh5 followed by Qf7 gives White a crushing attack.

#### 12. Bf6 gf 13. Qh5?!

This move leads to a clear advantage for White, but not to an immediate attack. The sacrifice line was 13. Bb7 Nb7 14. Nd5 ed 15. ed+ Kd7. I considered this, but rejected it because 16. Qg4+ Kc7 doesn't seem to go anywhere, and after 16. Qh5 the knight on d4 is en prise. In the post mortem, Rowson thought that White can sacrifice this knight too: 16. Qh5 Qd4 17. Qf7+ Kc8 18. Re8+ Nd8. The double knight sacrifice certainly would have been a crowd-pleaser. Now 19. Rae1 looks strong, threatening Rd8+. After 19...Qb6 20. Qf6 Rg8 21. Qe6+ wins the rook, and after 19...Bg7 20. Qe6+ is strong (not 20. Qg7 Re8 21. Re8 Ra7 followed by ...Rd7 and Black consolidates), for example 20...Kc7 21. Re7+ Kb6 22. Qd6+ Ka5 and surely there must be a mate here. The next day Rowson found an interesting defense for Black: Meet 13. Nb7 with 13...Qb7. During the game we both thought this wouldn't work because of 14. b4 Nd7 15. Qh5 when Black seems hard-pressed to meet Ne6. But 15...Qc8! holds on. Still, after 15.Re3 Qc4 (Rowsonce2 White has a lot of

pressure: He threatens Rc3 followed by Ne6. Black cannot castle because of Rc3, and after 16...Ke7?? 17. Rc3 the queen is trapped (17...Qb4 18. Nc6+). 15...Ne5 or perhaps 15...Nb6 may be better than 15...Qc4. But in either case, White has a nice initiative after 16. a4. The difference with the game is that Black's king is still stuck in the centre. Not only is 13.Bb7 objectively strong, from a psychological point of view White's game pretty much plays itself, whereas Black has to make very difficult defensive choices.

#### 13...0-0-0 14. Bb7+ Nb7

A turning point in the game. White has achieved a clear and lasting positional advantage: His pawn structure is better, he has a lead in development, and his king is much safer than Black's. But after forgoing the double knight sacrifice mentioned in the previous note, White has no immediate attack and must find a new long-term plan for improving his position. The right plan seems to be to play for the a4 break. This gains space on the queenside and further weakens the pawn cover of Black's king. So a logical continuation would have been 15. Nb3!? Rd7 16. a4 b4 17. a5 Qc6 18. Na4 Kb8 19. Nb6 Rc7. This looks strong for White, but I don't see an immediate way to strengthen the attack; 20. Ra4 Qc2 21. Rb4 Qb2 might backfire. I didn't think as hard about this position as I should have to form a new plan, and instead played a mechanical development move. The move is okay, but I shouldn't have played on autopilot.

#### 15. Rad1

This keeps the knight on d4 and puts the rook on a half-open file. But since White is playing for a4, it's not clear that that's where his knight and rook belong.

#### 15...Rd7

Having averted immediate disaster, Black offered a draw. This in itself was an astute move: What White really wants to do in this position is to play on for a bit and see if he can crack Black's setup. Black offers the draw before White has figured out if and how he can press his advantage. I didn't see a clear risk-free plan, and accepted the draw, which certainly showed some respect for GM Rowson.

During the game I planned 16. Re3 Kb8 (not 16...Qc5? 17. Nd5 threatening Rc3). Now Black threatens to get some counterplay with ...Qc5. Rowson thought that now Nb3 was a good plan, followed by a4, which gets us into a version of the previously discussed position that is slightly better for Black than before. More enterprising, but also more risky, is

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17. b4!?, which was my most serious candidate. This also stops ...Qc5 and ...Nc5, and fixes the Black pawn on b5, so that Black cannot avoid lines being opened after a4. On the other hand, White permanently weakens his queenside pawns, and may end up losing all three of them. A possible continuation is 17...h6 with the idea of Rg8-g5. After 18. a4 ba 19. Na4 Qb4 is awkward for White, but 18. Qe2 prepares the a4 break nicely: 18...Rg8 19. a4 ba 20. Na4 Qb4 21. Qa6 wins for White. Black can try 18...Ka7 defending a6, but 19. a4 ba 20. b5 looks strong, for example 20...Nc5 21. Qc4. I would have liked to play Re3 and then reconsider b4; with Rowson's early draw offer, I was afraid I would mess up my position, so I decided to take the bird in the hand, and get half a point as well as some rest. After analyzing the position, I regret not taking the chance!  
1/2-1/2 (Schulte)

#### Juraj Pivovarov – Ron Hinds

##### June Open 2000, Calgary

1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. d4 g6

I paused and asked Juraj "Is this the G?", Yuraj now goes into the closed Grunfeld without the usual 4. Nf3, Bg2 moves. His aim is to exchange the c-pawn for the black d-pawn and protect against a future 6...Nxc3 7. Bxc3 scenario by injecting the move Bd2 first.

4. e3 Bg7 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. Bd2 0-0

(I now miss my chance with 6. ... c5 7. Nf3, 0-0 etc.. Juraj now changes his system into the Bc4 system of the closed; however, now it is merged with the Bd2 move. The difference being that with Black's c5 move, the Bc4 move by white could be answered by Nc3, cxd5 ... resulting in a possible IQP situation for

White.

7. Bc4 Nb6 8. Bb3 Na6 9. a3 c5 10. dxc5 Nxc5 11. Bc2 Nd3

I decide to see what will result after an occupation of the d-file with the Black pieces.

12. Bxd3 Qxd3 13. Qe2 Rd8 14. Qxd3 Rxd3

Yuraj now decides to Castle kingside and then try to unwrap his pieces.

15. Nf3 Be6 16. 0-0 Rad8 17. Rfe1 Bb3 18. Re2 Nc4

All of the Black pieces are invited in.

19. Bc1 Bxc3

Removing the defender of the d1 square.

20. bxc3 Rd1+ 21. Re1 Rxe1+ 22. Nxe1 Rd1 23. Kf1 Nd2+

Art Milne may see this as a "crisp" move.

24. Ke2 Ne4 25. f3 Nxc3+ 26. Kf2 Na2 27. Rb1 Nxc1 0-1 (Hinds)

#### Jim Flemming - Bob MacFie

1.d4 f5

Since I play Bird's Opening now and then, I thought it was time I tried the Dutch Defense.

2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 8.Bg5 Na6

While this may be a standard move after 8.d5, it is probably better to play 8...Nc6 in this position. After 9.d5 Nd8, Black intends ...Nf7 and ...e5 (or 10.Nd4 e5) after some preparation.

9.Qd2 Qf7 10.d5 Re8 11.Nd4 Rb8?

Now that Black has finally lured the d-pawn forward, he should have played 11...Nc5. White can gain no advantage with 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.b4 Bxd4! 14.Qxd4 e5.

12.Rae1 Nc5

Now that there is no Rook on a1, this is a little late.

13.Bxf6 Qxf6

13...Bxf6 14.Ndb5 (14.Ncb5 e5; 14.b4 Bxd4) 14...e5 15.Nxa7 may be a better choice.

14.Ndb5 e5 15.Nxc7 Re7 16.Ne6 Bxe6?!

16...Nc5xe6 preserves the exchange, but loses the d-pawn. It is still the better way to proceed, unless you have a vice like mine, which prefers losing the exchange to losing a pawn.

17.dxe6 Rd8 18.Nd5 Qxe6 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.b4 Ne6 21.Bd5 Kh8 22. Bxe6 Qxe6 23.Qd5 Qe7

More accurate was 22...Qd7, especially in light of how the game continued. To be fair, it should be noted that White was in considerable time trouble at this point.

24.e4 f4 25.Qd3 Rf8 26.Rd1 Rf6 27.c5 f3 If the Queen was on d7 at this point, White may have been more cautious and avoided this situation (which would be winning for Black, provided the Queen was on d7 at this time). That is no excuse for inexact piece placement, of course.

28.g4 Qd7 29.h3 Rf4??

The attempted combination is one move too slow. Black can't prepare this with 29...Bf8 either, because of 30.Qd5, followed by Qxe5. The most difficult move for White to meet is 29...h5, giving Black's King some breathing space while threatening to expose the White King - finding the right continuation after that in less than five minutes would be a fair challenge. I think 30.Kh1 Bh6 (30...hxg4 31.Rg1, intending Rxc4) 31.Rg1 holds the defense for White. I didn't realize my error until after move 31, after which I simply resigned by allowing mate.

30.Qxd6 Rxc4+?? 31.Kh1 Rg1+?? 32.Kxh1 Qxh3?? 33.Qd8+ Bf8 34.Qxf8# (MacFie)

## EUGENE GIBNEY SIMUL

### By Chris Miller

Of the 14 players who matched wits over the chessboard with Canadian Correspondence Chess Champion Eugene Gibney on Sunday, Oct. 1, not one was strong enough to beat him. Allen Tinio of Wainwright came the closest, fending off Gibney's attack to earn the draw. The event started shortly after 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1 in Wainwright at the Royal Canadian Legion, Worthington branch. For his efforts, Tinio received two ornate millennium mugs, courtesy of Toys and Treasures, co-sponsor of the event, along with the community newspaper, The Wainwright Review. Appropriately enough, the mugs had pictures of genius Albert Einstein on them. Tinio had to play like a genius to have any chance against Gibney, whose cautious, solid style proved too much for the other competitors.

A handful of players were checkmated in under 20 moves. John Green found out firsthand what it's like to be on the losing side of an opening aptly dubbed the Spanish Torture. Chris Miller, the only rated player, blundered in a drawn ending. By 6:30 p.m., Jason Haas was the only player not yet eliminated. He

hung in there with a teensy bit of help from Dr. Kevin Hay, but ultimately lost. Following the event, players spoke of starting a chess club in town, which may become a reality soon enough.

Gibney, a national master over-the-board, is a surgeon from Lloydminster. He learned to play the "royal game" when he was 12 years old. He began playing seriously in his school chess club when 16, inspired - like so many of today's top players - by all the publicity surrounding the famous Bobby Fischer-Boris Spassky match in 1972. In postal chess, he is the 1973 British Junior Champion and four-time Irish Champion (1980, 1981, 1985 and 1991). Moreover, he is the reigning Canadian Champion. He is rated 2301 in the Canadian Correspondence Chess Association and 2433 in the International Correspondence Chess Federation. He soon hopes to achieve his international master title. He is already half way there, having achieved one of the two necessary norms.

The secret to his success? "I would describe my style as more positional than tactical. I am always happy with a small advantage which I then try to gradually enlarge", he said.

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An intimidating opponent not only through the mail, but face-to-face as well, Gibney tied for first place in the 1997 Canadian Amateur Championship. He is currently ranked number seven in Alberta. Over the years, he has faced some of the strongest grandmasters, including Svetozar Gligoric, Vladimir Epishin and Leonid Yudasin.

While Gibney considers his judgement of a position and its possibilities to be his greatest strength, he admitted to having a weakness as well. "My greatest weakness is lack of stamina to play consistently well during a long game, and similarly in the latter rounds of a long tournament", said Gibney. "I think I could only advance further in over-the-board chess if I devoted a lot

more time to study and preparation, and I'm not in a position to do this now, so my ambitions in this aspect of the game are on hold for now", he said.

While Gibney came to Wainwright out of the goodness of his heart and was not compensated for his efforts, Chris Miller is asking other masters and strong players to contact him at the newspaper office (780-842-4199) if they are interested in coming to Wainwright for a simultaneous exhibition. In an attempt to promote chess in rural Alberta, a weakness of the Alberta Chess Association, we promise more players, better prizes and compensation for the masters.

## ALBERTA JUNIOR

### By Rob Gardner

The Alberta Junior was originally planned as a Swiss tournament. However, only four players showed up and after much debate, the format of a double round robin was adopted.

Nicolas Haynes emerged in first place by a substantial margin. He played fighting chess and seemed to be in trouble in only one game. Three-time defending champion Hans Olson has been concentrating on his college studies recently and his chess game seemed a bit rusty. Top-seeded Kim Nguyen seemed to have an off tournament with some of his games marred by errors. Anastasia Kazakevich was years younger and several hundred points lower rated than her competitors, but she still managed to turn most of her games into tough positional struggles.

This round one victory shows a sample of Nicolas's style:

### Hans Olson - Nicolas Haynes

#### Round 1

1.e4 Nc6 2. Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 e5 4.Bc4 Bc5 5.d3 h6 6.0-0 7.Be3 Bb6 8.Nd5 d6 9.Nxb6 axb6 10.h3 Na5 11.Nd2 Nxc4 12.Nxc4 Be6 13.Nd2 d5 14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nf3 Qf6 16.d4 e4 17.Nd2 Qg6 18.Kh2 f5 19.Nc4 f4 20.Ne5 Qf5

	1	2	3	4	Total
Nicolas Haynes	x	x	1	1	5
Hans Olson	0	0	x	x	3
Kim Nguyen	=	0	0	=	3
Anastasia Kazakevich	0	=	0	=	1

21.Bd2 Qg5 22.c4 Ne7 23.Bb4 c5 24.Ba3 f3 25.gxf3 Qh4 26.Ng4 h5 27.d5 Bd7 28.Nh6+ gxh6 29.Rg1+ Kh8 30.Qf1 Rxf3 31.Rg3 Rf8 0-1

The following game was a heartbreaker for Kim. I consider it to be instructive in a way.

### Hans Olson - Kim Nguyen

#### Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.a4 a6 7.Bc4 e6 8.0-0 Ne7

9.e5 d5 10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Ne4 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Qd4+ 13.Kh1??

13.Qe3 maintains material equality. Now White drops a piece.

13...f5 14.Re1 fxe4 15.Rxe4

Black has won a piece for a pawn, but White winds up winning the game. How? White has some compensation in that the Black king is somewhat exposed. Though Black maintains a winning position for a long time, he never gets his king to complete safety. With an exposed king, one always has to be alert to tactics. It may be that Kim's biggest practical problem was having a night job. I know from personal experience that switching from nights to days for a weekend chess tournament has an effect on one's level of alertness.

15...Qd6 16.Qb3 Kf7

When up by a substantial amount of material, giving some back to solve practical problems is always an option. 16...0-0 17.Bxe6+ Kh8 (17...Bxe6? 18.Rxe6 sets up a nasty discovered check) brings Black's king to safety and develops his rook. White's pawns are nowhere close to promotion and they do not control sensitive squares so Black should be winning. At first I thought that White could obtain

an unclear position with 18.Bxc8 Raxc8 19.Qxb7, but 19...Rxf4, threatening 20...Rf1 mate, leaves White with problems. For example 20.Re1 Rcf8 looks grim for White. However, there is nothing wrong with 16...Kf7

17.d4

White needs to complete his development while maintaining chances of getting at the Black king. His position is desperate enough that he may as well give up another pawn to provoke Black into wasting time or opening some lines.

17...cxd4 18.Bd2 Ra7

This is an awkward move which slows down Black's consolidation. If I understood correctly the explanation Kim gave later, he was having trouble figuring out how to complete his development while keeping b7 protected. I am sure lots of (or even most) high-rated players can remember some game during their developmental process which they painfully lost despite a big material advantage. A common problem is that a player focuses on keeping all the extra material rather than other things such as coordinating one's pieces. Another problem is that a player might find it hard to concentrate if he feels like the game is already won. Here 18...Bd7 seems natural since 19.Qxb7 can be met by 19...Rhb8. Another idea is 19.Bb4, trying to exploit the diagonal opened by the 17.d4 pawn sacrifice, with the idea of trading on e7 and winning the e6-pawn. It can be met by 19...Qc6 gaining a tempo on the rook to get in 20...Nd5. 19.Rae1 Nd5 20.f5

Still concentrating on opening lines of attack.

20...gxf5 21.Qf3 h5 22.Rh4 Kg6

Black's material advantage has grown and he is still winning, but his king is still somewhat exposed and he has not yet activated all his pieces.

23.Be2 Nf6 24.Bf4 e5 Kim may have said that he missed White's next move, but in any case the next few

moves work out fine for Black. 25.Qg3+ Ng4 26.Bxg4 fxd4

Offering a rook trade with 26...hxg4 is the obvious option. White could try 27.Rxh8 Bxh8 when the continuation 28.Bxe5 Bxe5 29.Rxe5 b6 leaves White with few resources to stir up further trouble. 28.Qh4 looks a bit more daunting, but 28...exf4 29.Qxh8 Be6 once again leaves Black ready to turn the tide of attack by advancing the b-pawn and bringing the rook into play. A better reaction by White is

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27.Rxe5. A plausible continuation is 27...Rhx4 28.Rxf5 Bxf5 29.Bxd6 Rh6. I presume this is winning for Black, but it will still take him some work to coordinate his pieces. The move Kim chose was aimed at burying the White rook on h4. This continuation was simpler to calculate, which seems prudent especially considering that the players were approaching the time control.

27.Bxe5 Bxe5 28.Rxe5 Qf6

Another way of dealing with the threat of 29.Rg5+ was 28...Bf5. For example: 29.h3 Raa8 30.Kg1 (preparing 31.hxg4 hxg4 32.Rxg4+) 30...Rae8

29.h3 b6

At last the rook senses freedom.

30.hxg4 Bxg4

Though 30...hxg4 31.Rxh8 Qxh8+ 32.Kg1 looks dangerously airy for the Black king, the continuation 32...Rh7 appears to lead to a favorable simplification for Black. On the last move of time control, Kim pragmatically chooses to keep the White rook imprisoned.

31.Kg1

With the king off the h-file, an exchange sacrifice on g4 is threatened.

31...Rh6 32.Rd5

Both sides have played reasonably since White's blunder in the opening. Black has maintained a winning position, but White had found ways of continuing to pose practical problems. When you win a piece on move 14, you don't expect to be dodging devious tricks on move 32. Kim now starts to lose the thread of the position. In trying to meet the threat of 33.Rd6, he allows a tactic.

32...Kg7?

32...Re7 and 32...Kh7 both seem to offer Black the chance to grab the initiative in a few moves. I don't think the clock was a factor in this mistake though the sudden death time control did come into play within a few more moves.

33.Rhxh5?

White discovers the right idea, but carries it out in the wrong way. 33.Rdxh5 wins the bishop after 33...Rxh5 34.Rxh5 Qg6 35.Qe5+ Kf7 36.Rg5. At least 33.Rhxh5 takes an important pawn and makes life more difficult for Black.

33...Rg6 34.Qb8 Re7

Black seems better coordinated after 34...Bxh5 35.Qxa7+ Kh6 36.Rd7 (else 36...Bf3) 36...Qe6

35.Qh8+ Kf7 36.Rh7+ Ke6 37.Rxe7+ Kxe7

Perhaps 37...Kxd5. The sudden death time control was starting to become a factor.

38.Qd8+ Kf7 39.Qc7+ Qe7 40.Qf4+ Kg8

41.Re5 Qg7 42.Qxd4 Be6 43.Qd8+ Kf7

44.Re2 Qxb2 45.Qc7+ Kf6 46.Qd8+ Kf5

47.Rf2+ Ke5??

A blunder in sudden death time pressure. 47...Ke4 drops the rook to 48.Qd3+ so 47...Kg4 had to be tried, when anything might have happened.

48.Qh8+ Ke4 49.Qxb2

The remainder of the game was an unrecorded time scramble. White won some more material and then checkmated Black.

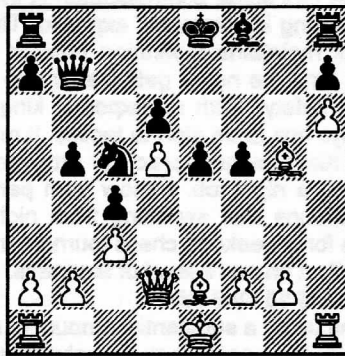
1-0 (Gardner)

The following key victory in round five left Nicolas with an insurmountable lead:

Nicolas Haynes - Kim Nguyen

Round 5

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.h4 c5 4.d5 Qb6 5.Qc1 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.c3 d6 8.Nbd2 Nxd2 9.Nxd2 e6 10.Nc4 Qc7 11.e4 b5 12.Ne3 Qb7 13.Be2 e5 14.Ng4 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.Qd2 Nd7 17.h5 c4 18.h6 Bf8 19.Ne3 Nc5 20.Nxf5 gxf5



21.Bh5+ Kd7 22.Bf7 Kc7 23.f3 Kb6 24.Be6 Nxe6 25.dxe6 Rg8 26.b3 cxb3 27.axb3 a5 28.c4 d5 29.e7 Bxe7 30.Bxe7 Qxe7 31.Qxd5 Qb4+ 32.Kf1 Rhe8 33.Rc1 Rad8 34.c5+ Kc7 35.Qf7+ Kb8 36.c6 1-0

## TRUMPETER OPEN

By Alan Clark

The 2001 Grande Prairie Open was won by Rob Gardner, just ahead of David Ottosen, John Quiring and Ford Wong.

Word on the street has it that in a game against Adam Tassone, Rob sacrificed an entire rook for what appeared to be nothing to the untrained eye. However, Rob demonstrated the soundness of this outrageous sacrifice by somehow inducing Adam to counter-sacrifice his Queen, many moves later. This time though Rob was able to withstand Adam's initiative and win the game. I do not have the game score-sheet, but if it lives up to the hype, this game will surely become known as the "Game of the Century". WARNING: SARCASM AT CRITICAL LEVELS, RETURN TO BASE IMMEDIATELY

A full report on this tournament should ap-

pear soon, but for now David Ottosen has submitted one of his games from the tournament.

David Ottosen - Ford Wong

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 Ne4 3. h4 c6 4. e3 Nxc5 5. hxg5 Qa5+ 6. Nc3 Qxc5 7. Nf3 Qa5 8. Bc4 d5 9. Bd3 g6 10. Ne5 Nd7 11. Qd2 Nxe5 12. dxe5 Bf5 13. Bxf5 gxf5 14. e6 fxe6 15. Qd4 Rg8 16. Rxh7 Qc7 17. O-O-O e5 18. Nxd5 cxd5 19. Qxd5 Rg7 20. Rxg7 Qxc2+ 21. Kxc2 Rc8+ 22. Kb1 Rc1+ 23. Kxc1 Bxg7 24. Qg8+ 1-0

## EDMONTON CLOSED QUARTER WAY THROUGH UPDATE

By Alan Clark

Round 1

Gardner 2 Verlik 0  
Grumic 2 Tassone 0  
Ottosen 1.5 McNab 0.5  
Hughey 2 Yewchuk 0  
Clark 2 Pasco 0  
Wong 2 Anderson 0  
Yamach 2 Beebe 0  
Ludwig 2 Lacroix 0

So Gardner, Grumic, Ottosen, Hughey, Clark, Wong, Yamach and Ludwig qualify.

Alvin Pasco - Alan Clark

Round 1 Game 1

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.c4 0-0 5.0-0 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.Nc3 c6 8.d4 Bf5 9.Nh4 Be6 10.e4 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Bc4 12.Re1 Qa5 13.Bd2 Nd7 14.f4 Rad8 15.Qc2 Nf6 16.f5 Qa6 17.Bf1 Bxf1 18.Rxf1 Qc4

Preventing the big c5 push, and threatening ...Rxd4. But there's no point in lying about it - Black's position just isn't very good.

19.fxg6 hxg6 20.e5 Ng4 21.h3 21.Nh6 22.Nxg6?

A spirited try, but it does not quite work. White could have continued the build up with something like 22.Rae1, as 22...Rxd4? loses to 23.Bxh6 Bxh6 24.Nxg6)

fxg6 23.Qxg6 Nf7 24.e6 Nh8

24...Ne5 was possible, but it looked a bit messy and moving it to Nh8 looked like a safer way to consolidate.

25.Qg4 Qd3! 26.Bh6 Qg6 27.Qxg6 Nxg6 28.Bxg7 Kxg7 29.h4 Rf6

It's a simple task now for Black to win the endgame.

30.Rae1 Nf8 31.Rf4 Rxf4 32.gxf4 Kf6 33.Kf2 Nxe6 34.Kf3 c5 35.dxc5 Nxc5 36.Re5 Ne6 37.Ke4 Rd2 38.Rf5+ Kg6 39.h5+ Kg7 40.a4 Re2+ 41.Kf3 Rc2 42.Ke4 Rxc3 43.Re5 Rc6 44.Kf5 Kf7 45.h6 Nf8 46.Kg5 Nh7+ 47.Kh5 Kf6 48.a5 b6 0-1 (Clark)



## MONDAY NIGHT AT THE ECC

by John Quiring

In a record breaking year, 146 different people played in the casual chess tournaments at the Edmonton Chess Club. These tournaments are run on Monday night, and are generally called "John" tournaments, named after the world famous John Rating System which is used to provide ratings for the players. These tournaments are characterized by relaxed noise controls, no touch move, and no requirement to write down the moves.

Micah Hughey was the main organizer of the Monday night tournaments in 2000, repeating his efforts from 1999. Frequently he took byes in order to even out the number of competitors so that everyone else would get to play, so his statistics (see below) would be even higher if not for that.

In 2000, 47 tournaments were rated, as opposed to 51 tournaments in the previous year. This was because the Club was closed on several Mondays, and also (regretably) the results for one tournament have disappeared without a trace.

The average tournament size in 2000 was 19 players, the same as in 1999, with the smallest tournament being March 20 (11 players) and the largest on July 24 (30 players). A total of 1405 games were played during the year.

A total of 26 players finished first, or equal first, in the Monday night tournaments. Dominating the winners' circle was Micah Hughey (14 wins), followed distantly by Ferenc Borloi (7 wins), David Ottosen (6 wins), and (with 4 wins each) Alvin Pasco and Alan Clark. Three-time champions were Skylar Malito, Jim Lynn, Ahmet Yamach and Dave Gomboc. Scoring two wins each in 2000 were Jonathan Day, Nic Haynes, Kurtis Nystrom, Geoff Newton, Yngvi Bjornsson, and Sid Votary. The largest group had one win each: Otto Benedik, Tobias Jeserich, Joe Tumpek, Lorne Rusnell, Zhuoran Li, John Quiring, Mario Mendoza, Mark Stark, Yuri Vasylev, and Val Verlik.

On a sad note, one of the true stalwarts of the Monday night scene, Otto Benedik, died this past year, and we were shocked to discover he was 75 years old. He never struck one as being old. Otto was a gentleman in the club and at the board, and he loved to play chess. His "regular" opponent was Ferenc Borloi, and the two of them played hundreds of speed and off-hand games before, between, and after the tournament games.

Here are various statistics for 2000. Players have to have at least 25 rated games to be listed in any category. Of particular note is Cor Dewindt's participation in 31 tournaments during the year, as he has to drive over an hour to get to Edmonton.

### Most Tournaments Played

Micah Hughey 44  
Val Verlik 37  
Ferenc Borloi 36  
Cor Dewindt 31  
Mark Stark 30  
Skylar Malito 25  
Alvin Pasco 25  
Adam Tassone 25  
Ahmet Yamach 25

### Most Games Played

Ferenc Borloi 143

Val Verlik 141  
Mark Stark 117  
Micah Hughey 115  
Cor Dewindt 91  
Ahmet Yamach 87

### Most Wins

Ferenc Borloi 83  
Micah Hughey 82  
Val Verlik 60  
Ahmet Yamach 54  
Mark Stark 54  
Alvin Pasco 52

### Highest Winning Percentage

Dave Gomboc 84.2 %  
Alan Clark 81.1 %  
David Ottosen 80.2 %  
Micah Hughey 79.3 %  
Geoff Newton 75.0 %  
Nic Haynes 74.1 %

## THE CHESS WIDOW

By Ford Wong

I am dedicating this article to all those wives and spouses without whom chess for many of us would not be possible. These are the chess widows who unselfishly let us go play and enjoy the game that we like. Many of these people don't care about chess or even know how the pieces move. Sometimes you might be lucky and they might ask you how your game went. But don't bother explaining to them that you got beat on the dark squares or mumbling something about raking #\$@& bishops, etc. They just know that chess is something that we like and because we like it they let us do our thing. They are the ones who end up looking after the kids for entire weekends, taking them to hockey games, feeding them and watching them while we are off playing or running a chess tournament. They end up attending the family gatherings like Thanksgiving on our behalf and having to explain why we aren't there. They are the ones who often will drop us off at the tournament and later return to pick us up. Sometimes, they arrive early and you find them quietly sitting in a corner reading or minding their own business waiting for your game to finish and just being nice to everyone who might stop by to talk to them. These are the people who don't mind if you fill up the house with chess books, sets, and magazines or if you spend a bit of time with your nose stuck in them. They will always say it is okay if you ask them, on short notice, if someone from out of town could stay the night and they quickly re-arrange a bedroom for them, or set up a place for them to sleep, etc. They will agree to billeting players for long events and making sure that they are fed and watered and even driving them around town. Above all they will even put up with the weird behavior of chess players. On some occasions they might agree to accompany you to a major tournament out of town just to be with you and are cordial when you introduce them to many of your chess buddies. Sometimes they grace the tournament rooms with their presence and add a welcome change of scenery to the event. They will sometimes even let you plan the entire yearly vacation around some chess event. Above all they are willing to let you get away to pursue your chess activity making them once again a chess widow. Fortunately for us these widows don't kill and devour their mates.

I was fortunate to have one of these. Her name was Penny. She was all of the above and a lot more. Without her I would not have been able to play so much chess or get involved in chess activities as much as I did. If you are fortunate to have a Penny, a Betty-June, a Deet or whatever her name is, show her that you appreciate all that she has done by doing something special for her. Let her know that you really appreciate all that they've done for you. If you happen to see one hanging around a tournament, why not say hello and make her feel welcome. After all without them, chess may not be possible. It's not always fun being left alone while you go chasing the 64s.

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

### CALGARY CHESS CLUB

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

### EDMONTON CHESS CLUB

Meets: Prince Of Wales Armoury,  
Suite 114A, 10440 - 108 Ave.,  
Edmonton AB T5H 3Z9  
entrance at south west corner,  
open 7-11 pm.  
Monday--casual chess tournaments, no  
membership required; relaxed noise con-  
trols.  
Thursday--CFC-rated tournaments, CFC  
membership required; strict playing condi-  
tions.  
Info: club phone (780) 424-0283  
Micah Hughey (780) 429-2045  
Mail: see club address above.  
Schedule: A new tournament starts the first  
Thursday of every month.

### GRANDE PRAIRIE CHESS CLUB

Meets: Royal Canadian Legion,  
9912-101 Ave,  
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.  
September thru April  
Info: Phil Lefkowitz (780) 538-1903  
Mail: c/o 9905 75 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB  
T8V 6G2.

### NORTHERN COMMUNITIES CC

Info: Bernie Tynan (780) 771-3757.

### MEDICINE HAT CHESS CLUB

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

### PEACE RIVER CHESS CLUB

Meets: Peace Valley Inn (Rose Room)  
9609 101 Street  
Info: Alex Phimester (780) 624-8866

### LETHBRIDGE CHESS CLUB

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

### LLOYDMINSTER CHESS CLUB

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

### HINTON CHESS CLUB

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

### PETER LACROIX TRAINING MATCHES

By Alan Clark

During the latter part of 2000, Peter Lacroix played matches of four games apiece against two local experts: Dave Gomboc and myself. The notion behind the matches was to help Peter improve his game in the face of formidable talent. In his match, Dave tried to steer the games into positions of unclear material imbalance and successfully outplayed Peter in the complications, winning 4-0. Against Alan, Peter failed to capitalize on some promising tactical possibilities and in the end the match score was the same. Undaunted, Peter is looking to play further matches against similarly strong opposition.

#### Lacroix - Gomboc, Game 2

1. f4 d5 2. b3 c5 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. e3 Nf6 5. Bb2 g6 6. Bb5 Bd7 7. O-O Bg7 8. Bxc6 Bxc6 9. d3 O-O 10. Nbd2 Qc7 11. Ne5 Nd7 12. Ndf3 Rad8 13. Qe1 Nxe5 14. Nxe5 f6 15. Nxc6 Qxc6 16. Qg3 f5 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. Qf3 Qf6 19. c4 e5 20. cxd5 exf4 21. e4 Qd4+ 22. Kh1 Qe3 23. Rae1 fxe4 24. Qxe3 fxe3 25. Rxf8 exd3! 26. Rf3 d2 27. Rfxe3 dxe1=Q+ 28. Rxe1 Rxd5 29. h3 Kf6 30. Re2 Re5 31. Rd2 Ke6 32. Kg1 Rd5 33. Re2+ Kd6 34. Kf2 b5 35. Kf3 c4 36. bxc4 bxc4 37. Re8 c3 38. Ke4 c2 0-1

#### Lacroix - Clark, Game 3

1.f4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.b3 d5 5.e3 0-0 6.Bb2 c5 7.Be2 Nc6 8.0-0 a6 9.a4 Qb6?!  
The beginning of an dubious plan to profit from pressure on the a7-g1 diagonal; Peter responds aggressively and accurately.  
10.Ne5 d4 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.a5 Qa7 13.Na4 dxe3 14.dxe3 Nd5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qd3?! Bf5 17.Qd2 c4 18.Rf3 18. Nb6! Nxb6 19. Qd4+ Kh8 20. axb6 looks good for white, so I would have to play 19. ...e5 and hope for the best  
18...Bg4 19.Rg3 Bxe2 20.Qxe2 cxb3 21.cxb3 Rab8!  
21. Nxf4 Qc4 is good for Black too, but I say Keep It Simple Stupid.  
22.Qb2+ Kg8 23.Kh1 Nxe3 24.Qf2 Qd4 25.Rb1 Qxa4 26.Qxe3 Qxa5 27.h4 Qf5 28.Re1 Rb4 29.Qxe7 Rxf4 30.Re5 Rxh4+ 31.Kg1 Qf4 32.Rf3 Qd4+ 33.Rfe3 Rg4 34.Qf6 Rg3 35.Qe7 Rxe3 36.Rxe3 Rd8 37.Kh2 Qd6+ 38.Qxd6 Rxd6 39.Re7 c5 40.Rc7 Rb6 0-1 (Clark)

### COMING EVENTS

All tournaments require ACA and CFC membership (may be purchased on site) See page 2 for membership details.

#### Northern Alberta Open

February 24-25, Edmonton  
Info: David Ottosen, (780) 425-1584

#### March of Kings

March 17-18, Calgary  
Info: Arthur Odachowski, (403) 236-7853

### NORTHERN ALBERTA OPEN

FEBRUARY 24-25th

PRINCE OF WALES AR-  
MOURY, EDMONTON

CONTACT:  
DAVID OTTOSEN

### TOP ALBERTANS

Includes player who were active during the last 12 months

RANK	NAME	RATING
1	Oliver Schulte	2454
2	Rob Gardner	2348
3	Greg Huber	2336
4	Arthur Odachowski	2323
5	Fred South	2276
6	Eugene Gibney	2239
7	Andrew Lapides	2226
8	Dale Haessel	2225
9	Roy Yearwood	2219
10	Sasha Grumic	2212
11	Warrick Walker	2188
12	David Ottosen	2136
13	Kris Boehmer	2114
14	Micah Hughey	2083
15	Grant Brown	2076
16	Chris Kuczaj	2076
17	Jim Daniluk	2056
18	Alan Clark	2023
19	Ron Hinds	2006
20	Dave Gomboc	2004
21	Kim Nguyen	2000