

Alberta Chess Report



Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ October 2011

North Wins 16th Battle of Alberta

Team North led by Micah Hughey regains the Battle of Alberta trophy after a two year break.

Alberta was awarded the right to host the 2012 Canadian Junior Championship. The tournament will take place at the Calgary Chess Club between January 5-8.



Team North

Top from left to right: Sasa Grumic, Jeff Reeve, Rob Gardner, Blagoj Gicev, Peter Kalisvaart, Belsar Valencia, Aaron Sequillion and Mike Zeggelaar.

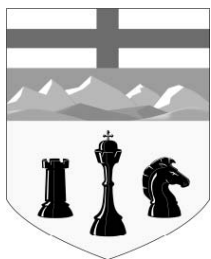
Bottom from left to right: Vladimir Pechenkin, Micah Hughey, Richard Wang and Edward Porper.

Photo by: Tony Ficzer



GM Joel Benjamin wins 6th Edmonton International

The traditional IM norms event was attended by 2 GMs, an IM and a total of 10 masters. 24 participants took place in the Reserves section.



Alberta Chess Association

**President
Rick Pedersen**

**Past President
Ford Wong**

**Vice-President
Jim Daniluk**

**Secretary
Dale Haessel**

**Treasurer
Ali Razzaq**

**Directors
Brad Willis
Robert Bezjack
Roy Yearwood
Richard Pua
Tim Pradzinski
Paul Usselman
Leonard Steele**

The Alberta Chess Association in partnership with the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, provides a more active lifestyle to Albertans by providing programs to enhance living through playing chess. The ACA greatly acknowledges the support provided by ASRPWF

Government of Alberta



ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The ACR is published 5 times each year. Publication months are February, June, October, November and December. Contact the editor for submission deadlines and changes. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they relate to Alberta.

Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif.

All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited.

Submit your request by email to: vrekhsn@yahoo.ca

Or call 1.403.970.8032

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

The articles contained in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alberta Chess Association.

ACR Ad Rates

Advertising in the ACR is an effective way to promote your business, tournament, or sell chess related articles. This is a great way for chess teachers to get the word out. All ACA sanctioned tournaments receive free ad space while non sanctioned or out of province events are subject to ad rates.

Size	1 issue	2 or more issues
Full page	\$100	\$75 per issue
Half Page	\$75	\$50 per issue
Quarter Page	\$50	\$35 per issue
Classified	\$20	\$15 per issue

Add \$20 layout if you do not provide camera ready material (does not apply to Classified ads). Add \$50 for colour (each issue). The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse any ads submitted.

Send your ads by email to vrekhsn@yahoo.ca or call 403.970.8032, outside Calgary 866.971.2437.



The Alberta Chess Association

To find out more about chess in Alberta visit www.albertachess.org
In Calgary call 403-970-8032

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 6th Edmonton International
- 6th Edmonton International Reserves
- Calgary/Edmonton Chess Club News
- Alberta's Youth Attacks the Chessboard
- 2011 Canadian Open
- Battle of Alberta
- Nato Military Chess Championship
- SACK News
- 2011 Over/Under 1800
- Canadian Ismaili Games
- 17th Medicine Hat Open

TOURNAMENT ADS

- 2011 Alberta Open
- 2011 ECC Fall Sectional
- 2011 AB Junior/Reserves
- 2011 WBX Team Tournament
- 2012 Canadian Junior (Calgary)
- 2011 Calgary Team Tournament

CLUB ADS

- University of Calgary Chess Club
- University of Alberta Chess Club
- University of Lethbridge Chess Club
- Calgary Chess Club
- Grande Prairie Chess Club
- Edmonton Chess Club
- Lethbridge Chess Club
- Medicine Hat Chess Club

REGULAR LISTINGS

- Top CFC & FIDE Rating List
- Alberta Chess Clubs
- Road Warrior Update

The ACR is online at www.albertachess.org (requires Adobe Acrobat)
Call the ACA by phone 403-970-8032
Email: vrekhsn@yahoo.ca



Affiliated with the Chess Federation of Canada www.chess.ca

The ACR is printed by
Scope Printing & Publishing
12015 76th St. NW
Edmonton AB T5B 2C9
780-474-8929
780-479-8363

GM Benjamin takes 6th Edmonton International

By Vlad Rekhson

The 6th annual Edmonton International Chess Festival took place at the Edmonton Chess Club between July 24th-August 1st, 2011. The normal length of this event has been approximately 6-7 days, as the International portion took 5-6 days and a day before that was used for special events like simuls and lectures. This year however, the Alberta Chess community received a special treat. Grandmaster Alexander Shabalov, a four time US champion, agreed to come several days early in order to provide master classes. Naturally, an event like this doesn't just come out of nowhere and significant funding for it was provided by Alberta Sports Recreation Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Visiting Coach grant. This grant allows Alberta sports and recreation groups to have access to top quality chess instructors from outside of the province; with the purpose of increasing the strength of the local participating community. GM Shabalov began the master classes on Sunday, July 24th as he gave an incredible seven hour lecture; most of which was focused on the King's Indian Defense as interpreted by GM Teimour Radjabov. While, the attendance was open to anyone, this lecture was targeting the top players in the province, including IM Edward Porper, as well as, several FIDE and National Masters.



Monday, July 25th was the first day of private lessons with selected Alberta players. The first two which enjoyed the opportunity for one on one instruction with the famous GM were juniors-Richard Wang and Jamil Kassam. The evening event was aimed at the regular club players. Monday night is casual night at the ECC, thus the average rating of players



GM Joel Benjamin (right) accepting the International trophy from TD Ali Razzaq.

is around 1600. The lecture with GM Shabalov was aimed at that level and featured ideas surrounding the capture of the g3/g6 pawns. GM Shabalov discussed the four cases when the capture should be done with the f pawn. The follow-up to the lecture was a 15 board clock simul. It appeared that the one hour per side was quite a difficult task for Alexander, as he lost on time to Ferenc Borloi. I was the second person to beat GM Shabalov as the final score was 13-2 and included wins over several expert and A class players. Tuesday, July 26th was the third day of lectures. It began with two more private classes while the evening session, which lasted for four hours, was once again aimed at the highest rated players. This time GM Shabalov focused on pawn sacrifices. It was followed up by another special guest as FM/WIM Alisa Melekhina conducted a one hour lecture on the Closed Sicilian systems.



On Wednesday, July 27 the wait was over as the 6th Edmonton International main event began in the evening. Just like last year, this year's tournament featured a 10 player Round-Robin and allowed for IM norm opportunities. The participants were: the aforementioned GM Alexander Shabalov (2577), 3 time US champion GM Joel Benjamin (2553), Edmontonian IM Edward Porper (2444), American WGM Tatev Abrahamyan (2343), Edmontonian

FM Vladimir Pechenkin (2297), American FM/WIM Alisa Melekhina (2263), Edmontonian National Master Richard Wang (2240), Calgarian FM Dale Haessel (2211), Edmontonian NM (who is representing his native country of Philippines) Belsar Valencia (2204) and last but not least, Edmontonian NM Robert Gardner (2188).

The first round saw the top trio laying the foundation for future domination, as GM Benjamin defeated the jet-legged WGM Abrahamyan (who arrived from Europe only two days earlier), GM Shabalov beat NM Robert Gardner and IM Porper took down NM Valencia after a 77 move marathon. FM Pechenkin played FM Melekhina until lone kings and FM Haessel had a quiet looking draw against NM Wang.

Thursday, July 28 was the first of the 2 round days. The morning round saw the continuation of the GM domination as GM Shabalov beat IM Porper and GM Benjamin outplayed NM Valencia. FM Melekhina defeated FM Haessel, NM Wang beat NM Gardner while FM Pechenkin drew WGM Abrahamyan.

Melekhina, Alisa (2263) - Haessel, Dale (2211)

6th Edmonton International Edmonton (2), 2011

(notes by: FM Alisa Melekhina)

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3

This was the first time I played 2.Nc3 in a chess game- specially prepared to avoid Haessel's pet Petroff in a tournament where every point is decisive.

2...Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bd6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.0-0 c6 9.Re1 Qc7

A rather awkward placement for the Queen when it is usually reserved for a5 in case white's Rook comes to b1 after playing d4. The black knight and rook should come first in the procession of black's development.

10.d4 Nd7 11.Qd3

While researching this line, I was inspired by the following Spassky game which used threats of Qd3 and Ng5 to exploit black's king. It was successful even with a different set-up for black. .. Spassky, B (2640) - Tempone, M [C47] Clarin Buenos Aires (10), 1979 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bd6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Rb1 Rb8 10.d4 Bg4 11.Qd3 Qc8 12.Ng5 Bf5 13.Be4 g6

14.f4 exd4 15.cxd4 Re8 16.Rb5 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Qe6 18.Nxd6 Qxd6 19.d5 Ne7 20.Ba3 Qd7 21.Bb2 Rf8 22.Re1 c6 23.Qc3 f6 24.dxc6 Nxc6 25.Qb3+ Kg7 26.Rd5 Qf7 27.Rd6 Qxb3 28.axb3 Rbd8 29.Red1 Rxd6 30.Rxd6 h6 31.Kf2 Rf7 32.g4 g5 33.f5 Ne7 34.Re6 Ng8 35.Bd4 a6 36.c3 Rc7 37.Rb6 Kf7 38.Kg3 Ke7 39.h4 gxh4+ 40.Kxh4 Kf7 41.Kg3 Rd7 42.Kf4 Re7 43.Rd6 Kg7 44.c4 Rf7 45.Bc3 Re7 46.Rd8 Rf7 47.Ke4 Ne7 48.Rd6 Nc6 49.Kd5 Ne7+ 50.Ke6 Nc6 51.Rd7 1-0

11...h6

Black may have cut off the g5 square for the knight, but this creates another weakness...

12.Nh4 exd4 13.cxd4 Nf6 14.c4 Be6 15.Bb2 Bb4 16.Re3 Rad8

Not enough to stop white's plan of breaking through with d5.

17.d5 cxd5 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.cxd5

The d5 pawn is very solid in the center thanks to the fianchettoed bishop.

19...Bc5 20.Re2 Bg4 21.Re4 f5 22.Rf4 'The Rook seems to have finally found a comfortable square and one of black's doubled pawns are about to fall.'

22...Bd6 23.Rc4 Qe7 24.Nxf5 Bxf5 25.Qxf5 Qe5 26.Qxe5

I can't avoid the Queen exchange, but even with opposite-colored bishops it is difficult for black to hold.

26...Bxe5 27.Rb1 b6 28.Rc6 Kg7 29.Rb4 f6 30.Rg4+

The gap in black's kingside is significant even without queens on the board.'

30...Kf7 31.Ra4 Rd7 32.Bh3 Rb7 33.Bc8 Re7 34.Be6+ Kg7 35.Rg4+ Kh8 36.Rg6 Rh7 37.d6 1-0

The evening round start coincided with the last round of the ECC, monthly Thursday event (aptly named "Shabba is Back Open." The International participants received a very warm round of applause from the local players. This round featured the first upsets as GM Shabalov drew NM Valencia (after the latter offered him a draw in an up an exchange position). This turned out to be the event's biggest upset. The second upset featured GM Benjamin who drew FM Pechenkin. This meant that no one would have a perfect score after three rounds. It was important because there was a special \$1000 perfect score prize offered by Micah Hughey. IM Porper rebounded after the morning defeat as he outplayed NM Wang. FM Haessel drew WGM Abrahamyan while NM Gardner drew FM Melekhina in a game that would be a co-winner of the

tournament's best game; \$100 prize, which was donated by Brad Willis.

Gardner, Robert (2188) - Melekhina, Alisa (2263)

6th Edmonton International Festival
Edmonton - Canada (3), 28.07.2011
(notes by: FM Alisa Melekhina)

Using Gardner's first round game against Shabalov as a guide, I prepared a slightly different and sharper move order against the h3 KID.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Be3 Nc5 10.Nd2 a5 11.g4 c6

The point of this line is to play c6 (usually waiting until g4 is played according to KID expert Joe Gallagher) and then capture on d5 at the right moment when black can get b5 in after playing a4 and Qa5. Gardner's interesting next move, practically a novelty according to my database, somewhat impedes this plan.

12.Qf3 '!' 12...Bd7 13.Be2 a4 14.g5 ' In retrospect after receiving such a difficult and tense position, I would have captured on d5 sooner in order to be able to recapture with the knight. For the remainder of the game I lacked any good opportunity to do so!

14...Nh7 15.gxh6 Bf6

'This defensive set-up is solid for black, but unfortunately black lacks enough play on the Queenside to compensate for the misplaced knight.

16.0-0-0 Qa5 17.Ndb1 Be7

[17...Bh4!? and surprisingly white cannot chase the bishop away to play h4 himself. 18.dxc6 Bxc6 19.Rxd6 Be7 20.Rdd1 Ng5! 21.Qg2 (21.Bxg5 Bxg5+ 22.Kc2 Bxh6³) 21...Ngxe4 22.Nxe4 Bxe4 23.f3 Bf5©]

18.h4 Rac8 19.Rdg1 b5

I have to play this move even without the exchange on d5- or face getting mauled by white's attack.

20.Bxc5 b4

A neat little tactic that makes 19...b5 work. **21.Bxb4 Qxb4 22.a3 Qa5 23.dxc6 Bxc6 24.Nd5 Bxd5**

White is planning to use the h7-b1 diagonal that was previously off-limits due to his own pawn, but maintaining the defensive dark-squared bishop is even more important.

25.exd5 Rb8 26.Bd3 Qb6 27.Qf5

White had one last chance to consolidate with 27. Qe2, but Qf5 was definitely the more courageous decision given the time-situation of both players.

27...Qxb2+ 28.Kd1 Ng5



After 27. Qf5

Black's only saving resource. The deceptively similar 28...Bg5 fails because of an impending mate on g7. 28...Bg5? 29.Rxg5 Nxxg5 30.Qf6!

29.Rxg5 Bxg5 30.Qxg5 Qb3+

The intuitive Qb3 is an inaccuracy when 30...Qd4 achieved the same purpose of Qb3 with an additional safeguard on the important e4 pawn.' [30...Qd4! 31.Ke2 (31.h7+ Kg7 avoiding the unexpected troubles accompanying Kxh7 (31...Kxh7 32.Qd2 e4 33.Bc2 Qxc4 34.Nc3 Rfc8 35.h5 Qxc3 36.hxg6+ Kxg6 37.Qh6+ Kf5 38.Rh5+ Kg4 39.Qg5+ Kf3 40.Qg3#) 32.Qd2 Rb2 33.Bc2 Qxc4) 31...e4 32.Bc2 Rb2-+]

31.Ke2 e4 32.Bxe4 Qxc4+ 33.Ke3 Rb3+ 33...Rfe8 34.Nd2 Rb3+ 35.Kf4 Qd4 36.Nxb3 Qxe4+ 37.Kg3 Qxh1 38.Qf6 and the best black has is a perpetual.

34.Kf4 'The white king is surprisingly safe in the center of the board.

34...Qd4 35.f3 Qe3+

I was expecting Kg4- keeping the bishop but failing to the fork unleashed with f5, a move that is impossible for black to make unless it comes with a check. [35...Re8! was black's last try. White's Nd2 resource is ineffective because the rook can capture on e4 instead of the Queen. 36.Re1 (36.Kg3 Rxe4 37.Nd2 Re2 38.Nxb3 Qf2+ 39.Kf4 Rc2! 40.Na5 Qd2+ 41.Kg4 Qg2+ 42.Kf4 Qxh1 43.Qf6 Qc1+--+) 36...Re5 37.Qd8+ (37.Qg4 Rf5+ 38.Kg3 Qe5+ 39.Kh3 Rfxf3+ 40.Bxf3 Qxe1) 37...Kh7 38.Qxd6 Qf2-+]

36.Kg3

36.Kg4 f5+! 37.Kg3 Qxg5+ 38.hxg5 fxe4.

36...Qxe4 37.Nd2 f6

securing the exchange, but at the expense of an escape route for the black king.

38.Nxe4

38.Nxb3 fxxg5 39.fxe4 gxh4+ 40.Kxh4

axb3 41.Rb1 and now white takes the lead!
38...fxg5 39.Nxg5 Rxa3 40.Re1 Rd3
41.Re7 Rxd5 42.Rg7+ Kh8 43.Rh7+ Kg8
44.Rg7+ Kh8 ½-½

Friday, July 29th saw the clash of the giants as the two GMs battled each other in a very interesting and complicated game. It was the second co-winner of the best game prize and ended in a draw.

Joel Benjamin (2553)-Alexander Shabalov (2577)

6th Edmonton International Edmonton CAN (4), 29.07.2011

(notes by: GM Joel Benjamin)

1.d4 g6

When you prepare for Shaba, you just hope your plans might bear fruit three or four games down the line.

2.e4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be2 Nd7 5.0-0 e5

I chose a move order to avoid lines with ...a7-a6, so Shaba counters by exploiting the fact I've committed my bishop to e2.

6.dxe5 dxe5 7.a4 Ngf6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bc4 h6 10.b3

The bishop can be nice on a3 but this move can wait. In the variation 10.Qe2 Re8 11.Rd1 c6 12.Nh4 Black is not in time to cover everything, so he would need to choose a different plan then in the game.

10...Re8 11.Qe2 c6 12.a5

12.Rd1 is met strongly by 12...Qa5! 13.Bd2 Qc7.

12...Qc7 13.Rd1 Ne5

This was a good call by Shaba. 13...Nf8 14.Ba3 Qxa5 15.Qe1 looks good for White because the Black queen doesn't have a solid escape square.

14.Ba3 Bf8 15.Qe3?!

I was asking too much with this move; still I was shocked that Black could push back so forcefully after this move. The simple 15.h3 should preserve a small advantage.

15...Ng4 16.Qc1 b5

The first snag: If 17.axb6 axb6 18.h3 Nf6 I can't grab the h6-pawn with 19.Bxc5? because 19...Rxa1 deflects my queen. Still, probably I should have captured on b6.

17.Bf1 Rb8

The second snag: Now 18.h3 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 b4 is much better for Black.

18.Bb4

We both worked out that 18...Nxb3 19.cxb3 Bxb4 20.Nd5 Qd6 21.Nxb4 Qxb4 22.h3 Nf6 23.Qxc6 just leads to an equal position. Shaba had a big clock edge out of



After 18. Bb4

the opening and spent a lot of time concocting a scheme I didn't see coming at all.

18...f5!

Somehow from the mildest of openings Shaba has already managed to create chaos on the board. I'm playing in his ballpark now without much time to make difficult assessments.

19.h3 Nf6

The flashy 19...Nxf2 20.Kxf2 Nxe4+ 21.Nxe4 fxe4 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.Qxh6 is not troubling for White. But Shaba's idea is deeper.

20.Nh4

After 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Qxh6 Qg7 Black happily plays down a pawn but with nice pressure and severely limited White pieces. I made a quick judgment that I had to stay active at all costs or I would surely make a critical error in time pressure.

20...Qg7 21.exf5 gxf5 22.Qe3 f4 23.Qf3 Qg5 24.Bxc5

Sadly, 24.Qxc6 Bb7 dominates my queen so I'm forced to trade first. **24...Bxc5 25.Qxc6 Bxf2+ 26.Kxf2 Bb7 27.Qxb5 Rec8**

This is the kind of annoying surprise one expects from Shaba, though objectively it probably isn't a good move.

28.Qd3

We both thought 28.Bc4+ would be too risky but in fact Black doesn't have a good square for the king. 28...Kh8 (28...Kg7 29.Rd7+ Nxd7 30.Qxd7+ Kh8 31.Qg4 just wins for White) 29.Qxe5 Qxh4+ 30.Kg1 offers White a lot more counterplay than in the game. The computer gives White a big edge after 30...Re8 31.Qf5 Bxg2 32.Rd6 Rf8 33.Rxf6 Rxf6 34.Qe5 Rbf8 35.Kxg2 but who knows what would have happened?

28...e4!?

Stop with the zwischenzugs already! 28...Rxc3 29.Qg6+ is in the neighborhood of equality but it's not Shaba's style to bail out into the ending.

29.Qd4 Qxh4+ 30.Kg1 e3 31.Ne2 Ne4

I was deathly afraid of 31...Be4--Shaba didn't consider it--but I can go back 32.Nc3.

32.Qe5 f3 33.Qe6+ Kh8 34.Qe5+ Nf6 35.Nf4



After 35. Nf4

35...Qg5

Shaba missed a scarier move here, 35...Be4. One possibility is 36.Ra4 Re8 37.Qxe8+ Rxe8 38.Ng6+ Bxg6 39.Rxh4 Bxc2 with Black apparently winning. It wouldn't have been easy to find a move with the proverbial hanging flag.

36.Qxe3 Rxc2

Here White can effectively counterattack with 37.Rd6 but Black's rook looked too scary on the seventh rank.

37.Rd2 Re8 38.Qd4 Re4 39.Qd8+ Re8 40.Qd4 Rxd2 41.Qxd2 fvg2 42.Bc4

The position is roughly equal as both players finally get to catch their breath. Here either side could well win the game, as there are many tactical pitfalls in both directions.

42...Kh7 43.Qf2 Ne4 44.Ne6

44.Qxa7 Qxf4 45.Qxb7+ Kh8 46.Qb6 is apparently good enough for a draw but I would never risk that in a million years! I did intend to try 44.Bd3 with the great trap 44...Rf8?? 45.Ne6! winning for White. Shaba hadn't noticed that yet but surely would have caught himself in time. However, I was afraid of 44...Qe5 45.Re1 Rf8, though apparently White has resources. 46.Qxa7 (even 46.Bxe4+ Bxe4 47.Qxa7+ Kg8 48.Nxg2 is survivable) 46...Qxf4 47.Bxe4+! Kg8 48.Bxb7 Qf1+



After 43...Ne4

49.Kh2 Qxe1 50.Bd5+ Kh8 51.Qd4+ Kh7 52.Qe4+ Qxe4 53.Bxe4+ and White has deadly queenside passers for the exchange. I didn't feel confident of calculating any of that so I figured I would force a draw. **44...Rxe6 45.Qf7+ Kh8 46.Qf8+ Kh7 47.Qf7+ ½-½**

The play certainly wasn't flawless but both sides had to make so many difficult moves under pressure that I feel proud to have been part of this struggle.

NM Gardner scored his only win of the event as he defeated WGM Abrahamyan. FM Pechenkin scored a win against FM Haessel. This turned out to be FM Pechenkin's only win, but he had an incredible tournament as he finished it with 8 draws one win with no losses! NM Wang couldn't beat NM Valencia in a rook endgame. IM Porper played an interesting game of his own and managed to outplay FM Melekhina. Saturday, July 30 was the first day of the Edmonton International Reserves event. More on this tournament is available in a separate report. Round 5 of the International saw a return to the GM domination as GM Benjamin defeated FM Haessel and GM Shabalov beat NM Wang. WGM Abrahamyan had the upset of the day as she beat IM Porper. The NM Valencia-FM Melekhina and NM Gardner-FM Pechenkin pairs ended peacefully.

Shabalov,Alexander (2577) - Wang,Richard (2240)

[notes by: GM Shabalov,Alexander]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 e5 An old fashioned way to treat this line. Much more attention lately received [4...b5 and

after 5.a4 b4 all three knight moves deserve serious attention. 6.Nce2 my personal favorite (6.Na2 Nf6 7.e5 Nd5 8.Bxc4 e6 9.Nf3 a5 10.0-0 Ba6 11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Bd2 c5 13.Qe2 Qb6 14.Nc1 Rc8 15.Qb5+ Qxb5 16.axb5 Nac7 17.dxc5 Bxc5 18.Rxa5 0-0 19.Nd3 Bb6 20.Ra4 Nxb5 21.Nxb4 Rfd8 22.Nxd5 Rxd5 23.Be3 Bxe3 24.fxe3 h6 25.Rb4 Rdc5 26.Rd1 Nc7 27.e4 Na6 28.Rb6 R5c6 29.Rxc6 Rxc6 30.Rd6 Rc1+ 31.Kf2 Nb4 32.Ke3 Rb1 33.Rd2 g5 34.h4 gxh4 35.Nxh4 Re1+ 36.Kf4 Rb1 37.Ke3 Re1+ 38.Re2 Rd1 39.Rd2 1/2 Ponomariov,R (2754)-Eljanov,P (2712)/Kiev UKR 2011/The Week in Chess 867; 6.Nb1 Ba6 7.Qc2 e5 8.Nf3 b3 9.Qc3 Nf6 10.Bxc4 exd4 11.Qxb3 Bxc4 12.Qxc4 c5 13.b4 Nc6 14.Ba3 Be7 15.bxc5 Nxe4 16.Nbd2 Nxd2 17.Nxd2 0-0 18.0-0 Qd7 19.Ne4 Ne5 20.Qa2 Qxa4 21.Qd5 Bf6 22.Bb2 Qc2 23.Bxd4 Rad8 24.Nd6 Nd3 25.Bxf6 gxf6 26.Qf3 Nxc5 27.Nf5 Ne6 28.Rxa7 Kh8 29.Ne7 Kg7 30.Ra3 Qc5 31.Nf5+ Kh8 32.Ng3 Qe5 33.Re3 Nd4 34.Qb7 Qd5 35.Qb2 Qb5 36.Qa1 Qc6 37.Rc3 Qb6 38.Kh1 Rfe8 39.Qa2 Qe6 40.Qb2 Ne2 41.Rf3 Nxc3+ 42.fxc3 Qe5 43.Qxe5 Rxe5 44.Rxf6 Rd7 45.h3 Kg7 46.g4 Rde7 47.R1f2 R5e6 48.g5 Re5 49.h4 Rd5 50.Kh2 Rc5 51.Kh3 Rc4 52.g3 Rb4 53.R2f4 Rb3 54.Kg4 Rb7 55.h5 R3b6 56.h6+ Kg8 57.Ra4 Rb4+ 58.Rf4 Rxa4 59.Rxa4 Rb8 60.Kf5 Kf8 61.Ra5 Ke7 62.Ke5 Kf8 63.Ra7 Re8+ 64.Kf6 Re6+ 65.Kf5 Re8 66.Rc7 Ra8 67.Kf6 Ra6+ 68.Ke5 Re6+ 69.Kf5 Re8 70.Rc6 Ke7 71.Rb6 Ra8 72.Ke4 1/2 Sargissian,G (2663)-Balogh,C (2643)/Ningbo CHN 2011/The Week in Chess 872) 6...Nf6 7.Ng3 h5 8.h4 Bg4 9.Nf3 c3 10.bxc3 bxc3 11.Be2 e6 12.0-0 a5 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Rc1 Bb4 15.Ne5 Bxe2 16.Qxe2 Nbd7 17.Nxd7 Qxd7 18.Rfd1 Ng4 19.Nxh5 Rxh5 20.Qxg4 Rh7 21.g3 f6 22.Be3 Kf7 23.d5 cxd5 24.exd5 Re8 25.Bd4 Qc8 26.Bxc3 exd5 27.Qf3 Qd7 28.Bxb4 axb4 29.Qb3 Rh5 30.Qxb4 Re2 31.Qa5 Kg6 32.Rc7 Qg4 33.Qa7 Kh6 34.Qb8 Kh7 35.Qb1+ Qf5 36.Qxf5+ Rxf5 37.f4 Ra2 38.Rb1 d4 39.Rbb7 Rd5 40.Rxg7+ Kh8 41.Rgd7 Rxd7 42.Rxd7 Rxa4 43.Kg2 Ra2+ 44.Kh3 Rd2 45.Rf7 d3 46.Rxf6 1-0 Sokolov,I (2649)-Krush,I (2455)/Reykjavik 2010/CBM 135 Extra] **5.dxe5**

most principled continuation. [5.Nf3 exd4 6.Qxd4 Qxd4 7.Nxd4² leads to only nominal advantage.] **5...Qxd1+ 6.Nxd1** This is better than classical [6.Kxd1 b5

7.Be3 Nd7 8.f4 Bc5 9.Ke2 a5? This is a waste of time that led to serious trouble for black. (9...Ne7!) 10.Nf3 Ne7 11.f5! Bb6 12.Bxb6 Nxb6 13.Ke3 f6! 14.exf6 (14.e6? g6 15.Nd4 b4 16.Nd1 gxf5 17.exf5 Bb7f) 14...gxf6+ 15.g4 b4 16.Nd1 h5 17.Rg1 hxg4 18.Rxg4 Kf7 19.Kf4 Ba6 20.Ne3 a4 21.a3 c3 22.bxc3 Bxf1 23.Rxf1 b3 24.Rfg1 Rag8 25.Rxg8 Rxg8 26.Rd1 Rb8 27.Ne1 Rh8 28.Kg3 Rg8+ 29.Kf2 Rh8 30.Nf3 Rb8 31.h4 b2 32.Rb1 Nd7 33.Nc4 Nc5 34.Ke3 Rd8 35.Nd4 Rh8 36.Nd6+ Kg8 37.Rxb2 Rxh4 38.Rb8+ Kh7 39.Re8 Ng8 40.Ne6 Nd7 41.Kd4 Rh1 42.Nc4 Rd1+ 43.Ke3 Re1+ 44.Kd3 Rd1+ 45.Ke2 Rc1 46.Kd2 Rg1 47.Ra8 Ne5 48.Nxe5 fxe5 49.Rxa4 Nf6 50.Nc5 Rg2+ 51.Kd3 Rg3+ 52.Kc2 Ng4 53.Ra7+ Kg8 54.Rd7 Ne3+ 55.Kb3 Rg1 56.a4 Rb1+ 57.Ka2 1-0 Karpov,A (2725)-Salov,V (2660)/Wijk aan Zee 1993/CBM 034/[Hertneck]]

6...b5 7.f4

Funny, I was under impression that i'm following Karpov's game exactly. [7.Be3 f6 8.exf6 Nxf6 9.f3 Bb7 10.Nc3 Nbd7 11.Nh3 Bb4 12.Be2 Nc5 13.0-0 0-0-0 14.a3 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Na4 16.Rac1 a6 17.Nf2 Rhe8 18.Bd1 Nb2 19.Bd4 Nxd1 20.Rcxd1 Re6 21.Nh3 Rd7 22.g4 Nxe4 23.fxe4 c5 24.Bxc5 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Rxe4 26.Nf2 Re2 27.h3 g6 28.Rd6 Re5 29.Bd4 Re1+ 30.Kh2 Ra1 31.Bc5 Kc7 32.Rf6 Rc1 33.Bb4 Bc6 34.Ba5+ Kd7 35.Rf7+ Ke6 36.Rxh7 Rf1 37.Kg3 g5 38.Rh6+ Kd7 39.h4 Rg1+ 40.Kh3 gxh4 41.Kxh4 1-0 Kovacevic,B (2493)-Zecevic,D (2433)/Omis 2005/CBM 108 ext]

7...g6 8.Nf3 Be6 9.Be2 Bc5 10.Be3 Nd7 11.0-0 f6!?

Richard does not shy away from complications.

12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.Nf2 0-0-0

It is not easy to leave king in the centre, but quite possible 13...Rd8 was better.

14.g4

14.b3!?! Kc7 15.bxc4 b4 16.Rfel a5 17.g4.

14...f5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.b4!

Both sides are ready to sacrifice for the initiative.

16...Nd3

16...cxb3? 17.Rac1 Rd5 18.axb3.

17.Bxd3 cxd3 18.Ng5 Bc4 19.gxf5 Ne7 20.f6 Ng6 21.Nfe4 h6 22.Nf3 Nxf4 23.Kf2 Rhg8?

Up to now Richard played an inspiring game and now could have hold the balance with 23...d2 24.Rfd1 Nh3+! 25.Kg3 Rhg8+ 26.Kh4 Nf4 and white has to accept the perpetual.

24.Ke3 Nd5+ 25.Kd2 Rg2+ 26.Rf2



After 16.b4!

Rxf2+ 27.Nxf2 Nxb4 28.Ne4 Bxa2??
 Hard to explain blunder. Black removes white pawn blockade with his own hands
29.Rxa2+- Nxa2 30.e6 Rh8 31.Ne5 Nb4 32.Ng6 Na6 33.Nxh8 Nc7 34.Nc5 Kd8 35.f7 Ke7 36.Ng6+ 1-0



In the evening round GM Benjamin defeated NM Wang, FM Haessel beat NM Gardner, WGM Abrahamyan won against NM Valencia, FM Pechenkin continued his ultra-solid streak by drawing IM Porper while FM Melekhina drew GM Shabalov. This game had an interesting pretext. Those two already played two games this summer before coming to Edmonton. In the first game, FM Melekhina won in 21 moves and the second ended in a draw after GM Shabalov barely saved it. The Edmonton game was more solid. Interestingly enough, only a few days after the end of the Edmonton International, GM Shabalov finally defeated FM Melekhina at the US Open. After this game GM Shabalov said that he never received so many congratulating notes after winning one game!
 Sunday, July 31 featured round seven.

GM Benjamin beat NM Gardner, FM Melekhina beat NM Wang while the GM Shabalov-WGM Abrahamyan, IM Porper-FM Haessel and NM Valencia-FM Pechenkin pairs all ended peacefully.

Robert Gardner-Joel Benjamin
 6th Edmonton International Edmonton CAN (7), 31.07.2011

(notes by: GM Joel Benjamin)
 Rob Gardner finished the tournament on a downward slide but his score doesn't reflect his competitiveness, as he could have easily scored against the three top seeds.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bd6

I opted for a tricky sideline I've played a couple of times in the past. I didn't want to repeat the line I used against Golod in the Canadian Open (4...0-0)

6.e4 c5 7.dxc5

This move came a bit too fast and aroused my suspicions.

7...Bxc5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.e5 Nfd7 10.Qxd5 0-0 11.f4 Bxg1 12.Rxg1 Qb6 13.Rh1 Nc6



After 14.Qb5

14.Qb5

My biggest concern was that my opponent had run this position through a search engine and worked out all the tactics. Rob hadn't done that but was playing quickly because he was following a recommendation from Yuri "Weird AI" Yakovich's book on the 4.f3 Nimzo-Indian. Grandmasters can be vulnerable in this regard because we don't pay nearly as much attention to books as amateurs do. White's last was recommended by Yakovich. I only knew--from my database

-- 14.Bc4?! Ndx5 15.fxe5 Be6 16.Qb5 Bxc4 17.Qxc4 Nxe5 with White unlikely to survive his exposed king in the center.

14...Nd4 15.Qxb6 Nxb6 16.Bd3 Rd8

17.Be3

Yakovich mentions 17.Be4 Bf5! (as I intended) offering sufficient compensation.

17...Bg4!?



After 17...Bg4

I didn't see any profit in a more direct move, e.g. 17...Bf5 18.Bxd4 Bxd3 19.Bxb6 axb6 20.0-0-0; or 17...Nb3 18.Rd1 Bg4 19.Bxb6 axb6 20.Be2, which are both very good for White. So I invented this move to take away the d1 square from White's rook. I didn't see a lot of good moves for White; 18.Rb1 is perhaps not an obvious choice but I didn't see an effective follow-up, e.g. 18...Nb3 19.Be2 Bf5 20.Bxb6 axb6 21.Rd1. I figured one subtle move would not be easy to find, but it turns out White can simply play 18.h3! I missed 18...Nb3 can be met by 19.Bxh7+! Kxh7 20.hxg4+ with White simply winning (I saw the idea during the game but forgot about it here). 18...Nf3+ 19.gxf3 Rxd3 20.hxg4 Rxe3+ 21.Kf2; and 18...Bf5 19.Bxd4 Bxd3 20.Bxb6 axb6 21.0-0-0 both work out quite nicely for White. Perhaps Black's position just isn't quite sound, as Yakovich concluded.

18.Bxd4?

Rob's move is third best and gives Black at least enough for the sacrificed material

18...Rxd4 19.Be4 Na4

I could also consider 19...Nc4 or 19...Rad8 but I went for the most direct continuation.

20.Bxb7 Rb8

I was very pleased as Rob settled into a long think here. After several minutes I noticed something disturbing. White has struggled to consolidate thus far because



After 20...Rb8

he was not able to castle, but that was because he had moved his rook, not his king. It suddenly dawned on me that queenside castling was still legal.

21.Nxa4 Rxa4

White is perfectly fine after 21...Rxb7 22.b4 Rxf4 23.Rf1

22.Bf3

22.Bc6 Rc4 23.Bd5 Rd4 Black crashes through to b2 more favorably than in the game.

22...Bxf3 23.gxf3 Rxb2 24.0-0-0!



After 24. 0-0-0!

Rob made the same discovery and keeps the game very much alive. My proud rook on the seventh rank will have to scurry right back. Castling so late in the game is always aesthetically pleasing but especially so here because White has almost no other pieces left!

24...Rb8 25.Rd3 Rxf4

Black maintains practical winning chances because White's split pawns can be nice targets to attack. I think White should hold but he probably has to keep all

the rooks on and look for counterplay. Rob's decision to simplify is understandable but I think it plays into Black's hands.

26.Rhd1 g5 27.Rd8+ Rxd8 28.Rxd8+ Kg7 29.Rd7 Rxf3 30.Rxa7

White can also try 30.e6 a6 31.Ra7 after which I was deciding between 31...Rf6 32.Rxa6 fxe6 and 31...Rxa3 32.Rxf7+ Kg6.

30...Re3 31.Ra5 h6

31...Kg6 32.Ra6+ Kf5 33.Rf6+ Kxe5 34.Rxf7 Rh3 35.Rf2 Rxa3 might be good enough to win as well but my move simply prevents e5-e6 and prepares to go after the h-pawn.

32.a4 Rh3 33.Ra7 Kg6 34.Ra6+ Kf5 35.Rf6+ Kxe5 36.Rxf7 Rxb2

Now we have reached a kind of textbook ending where connected passed pawns easily beat a single passer. Black will either swap passers (the h-pawn, not the g-pawn; rook pawns are horrible in rook endings because the king gets stuck in front of them) or give up the rook and overwhelm the rook when the pawns get to the sixth rank.

37.a5 Ra2 38.Ra7 g4 39.Kb1 Ra4 40.a6

On 40.Kb2 I intended 40...g3 41.Kb3 (41.Rg7 Kf4) Rg4 42.Re7+ Kd6 43.Re1 g2 44.Rg1 Kc6 followed by pushing the h-pawn.

40...Kf6

I find this simpler than 40...Kf4 because the White rook will remain inactive with fewer chances for cheapos.

41.Ra8 h5 42.a7 Kg7 43.Kc2 g3 44.Re8 g2 45.Re1 h4 46.Kd3 Rxa7 47.Rg1 h3 48.Ke3 Rf7 0-1

After the round, the International participants undertook a trip to Hawrelak Park which was the site of the Edmonton Heritage Festival. In it, over 60 cultures present their traditional food, dances, etc... This is considered the largest festival of this kind in the world.

Going into the penultimate round on Monday, August 1st the tournament was



led by GM Joel Benjamin with 6/7. GM Shabalov was behind him with 5/7. Third was shared by IM Porper, FM Melekhina and FM Pechenkin with 4/7 each. Since IM norm for the event was set at 6/9, both FMs needed to score two wins in the last two rounds to earn a norm. FM Melekhina needed 1.5/2 to score a WGM norm but she didn't seem to be too concerned with it. In round 8 IM Porper beat NM Gardner



Visit to the Heritage Festival



GM Joel Benjamin playing blitz with event sponsor: Sardul Purewal.

after Rob walked away from a potential draw in order to try and get an IM scalp. The other four games all ended in draws, which effectively ended the IM norms hunt. FM Pechenkin held a difficult position against GM Shabalov, FM Melekhina seemed somewhat disappointed after drawing GM Benjamin in a pretty complicated game. FM Haessel-NM Valencia, WGM Abrahamyan-NM Wang pairs ended in draws as well.

Gardner,Robert (2188) - Porper,Edward (2444)

Edmonton International - 2011 (8), [Notes by: IM Edward Porper]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.c5 Bf5

For some reason, that move is less popular than 5...Nbd7 - yet, it's perfectly logical as it develops an important piece. Besides, it was a sure tool to upset my opponent's preparation

6.Bf4 Nbd7 7.e3 e6 8.Qb3

natural moves aren't always the best ones.

Formally speaking, White did everything right for the next 5 moves - his only problem was a lack of a plan

8...Qc8 9.h3 h6 10.Be2 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Ne5

And here it comes... To plan ahead, White has but to ask himself, what Black can possibly strive for in this position. The reply is unequivocal: trade the dark-coloured B's. The white one on f4 is causing Black an unbearable shortage of breath, while his counterpart is facing a white wall of pawns. So, Bd8-c7 is imminent - and then Black will do his best to push for e6-e5. Under the circumstances, White's best shot is to stop this important pawn-move, while developing his own initiative on the Q-side under the auspices of the advanced "c" pawn - b4, a4, b5 etc. For that reason, the has nothing to do on "b3" as yet - and White could have used Kramnik's idea 8.Nd2 intending to play f2-f4 right after trading the B's on c7.

12...Bd8 13.f3?!

not a problem yet in its own right but definitely a move in a wrong direction. 13.Nd2 followed by Qd1, b4 was still on the cards, even with a loss of time. **13...Bc7 14.Nxd7 Nxd7 15.Bxc7 Qxc7 16.e4?** it's hard to believe that White dooms himself with this yet another natural move - and yet, it might well be the case. Even though 16 f4-b6 followed by ...Rfb8 and c5 would have left Black with a lot of initiative, it still would have been a better choice

16...Bg6 17.Qd1

[17.e5 b6 18.cxb6 Nxb6 19.Na4 Nxa4 20.Qxa4 c5 and Black either creates a passed "d" pawn or puts his pawn on "c4" and supports it with a lot of pressure along the c-file.

17...dxe4 18.Nxe4

18.fxe4 e5 leaves White with a pretty useless N on c3, while the black B is very helpful in defending the K-side. **18...Bxe4 19.fxe4 e5μ**

A triumph of Black's strategy - the disappearance of the "d" pawn provides the N with an eternal outpost on "e5"

20.b4

20.Rf5 could be mildly better as White at least keeps an option of bothering the "b7" pawn - even though after 20...Rad8 21.Rc1 g6 (21...Rfe8 22.Bc4 Nf6 23.d5 cxd5 24.Bxd5) 22.Rf2 exd4 23.Qxd4 Ne5 24.Qe3 Kg7 White's counterplay shouldn't be sufficient. **20...exd4 21.Qxd4 Ne5**

22.Rf5 Rfe8 23.Raf1

23.Rd1?! Rad8 24.Rxe5? Qxe5 25.Qxe5 Rxd1+--.

23...Rad8 24.Qc3 f6 25.Qg3 Kh7

I wanted to protect the h-pawn in case of f4.

26.Bg4 Qe7

I have to admit being totally oblivious to White's intended continuation but even though 26...Rd3 27.Qh4 a5 28.Rxf6 gxf6 29.Rxf6 Nxd4 30.Qxd4 Qg7 31.Qf5+ Kh8 32.Rf7 Rd1+ 33.Kf2 Qd4+ 34.Kg3 Qe5+ looks winning enough, the text let go none of Black's advantage.

27.Rxe5 Qxe5 28.Bf5+ Kg8 29.Qg6 Qd4+ 30.Kh2 Qc4 31.Rf3 Re7?!

The first instance of a temporary insanity. 31...Kf8 32.Rg3 Qf7 33.Qxf7+ Kxf7 34.Bg6+ Kf8 35.Bxe8 Rxe8 leaves Black with a technically winning endgame.

32.e5!?! Rxe5 33.Bc2 Qf7?!

Another symptom of a mental weakness. 33...Qe6 34.Rg3 Rg5 35.Qh7+ Kf7 36.Bb3 (36.Bg6+ Kf8 37.Qh8+ Qg8--+) 36...Rdd5 and there is no way White is going to break the Black Wall.

34.Qh7+ Kf8 35.Bb3 Red5?!

But that's an onset of a real dementia! I was probably being too lazy to calculate 35...Rdd5 36.Qh8+ Qg8 37.Rxf6+ gxf6 38.Qxf6+ Qf7 39.Qh8+ Ke7 and it's hard even to imagine a more winning position.

36.Re3

that's it - Black can't win any more as the white R finds its way to the 7th rank

36...a5 37.a3 a4!?

a resourceful attempt that should have proved useless anyways.

38.Bc4 Qc7+ 39.Rg3 Qf7 40.Re3 Qc7+ 41.g3??

Still keeps the game within the limits of equality but lays a foundation to White's future disasters.

41...Qf7 42.Re2

42.Qh8+ Qg8 43.Qxd8+ Kxd8 44.Bxd5+ cxd5 and there is no time for chasing the b7 pawn.

42...Qg8 43.Qc2?

43.Qe4.

43...Qf7?

43...Re8!

44.Qh7 Qg8

a comedy of errors goes on: Black is provoking his opponent to lose time in considering a repetition that would never happen - White plays along. **45.Qe4** objectively, it's the best move

45...Re5 46.Qxe5 fxe5 47.Bxg8 Kxg8

48.Rxe5 Rd2+

48...Kf7 49.Re3 Rd2+ 50.Kg1 Kf6 51.Kf1.

49.Kg1 Rd3 50.Kf2 Kf7 51.Re3 Rd2+ Black lacks exactly one move to win, as his K should be able to come to e5. **52.Kf3 Kf6 53.Kf4**

Yet again, a psychologically bad move even though it doesn't lose yet. The white K belongs to the Q-side now - to prevent the Rb2-b3 threat 53.Ke4 and there is no breakthrough for Black. **53...g5+ 54.Kg4??**

White spent too much time on the brink of the precipice not to fall into it, after all 54.Ke4=.

54...Rb2-- 55.Re8 Rb3 56.h4

56.Rb8 I could have really enjoyed 56...Rxa3 57.Rxb7 Kg6 58.h4 h5+ 59.Kh3 g4+ 60.Kg2 Ra2+ 61.Kf1 a3 62.Ra7 Kf5.

56...Rxa3 57.hxg5+ hxg5 58.Rb8 Rb3 59.Rxb7 Ke5 60.Rb6 Kd5 61.Kxg5 Rxd3+ 62.Kf6 Re3

An important touch - the K remains on the wrong side of the board.

63.Kf7 a3 64.Ra6 Kc4 65.Rxc6 Kxb4 66.Rc8 a2 67.Rb8+ Kxc5 68.Ra8 Re2 0-1

Before the start of the last round, the participants in both sections were treated with a BBQ which was organized by the Kassam and Wang families and took place near the ECC. The food was great and was enjoyed by all!

In the last round IM Porper and GM Benjamin couldn't break each other's defenses and the game ended in a draw. This guaranteed GM Benjamin a clear first with 7/9. GM Shabalov took the second spot after beating FM Haessel. NM Valencia proved that it's never too late to score the first win as he defeated NM Gardner. FM Melekhina drew against WGM Abrahamyan while FM Pechenkin concluded a super solid event with a draw against NM Wang.



FM Melekhina-WGM Abrahamyan

This event couldn't have happened without the people who sponsored it, and those who helped organize it. The tournament was sponsored by: The Edmonton Chess Club, Alberta Sports Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Alberta Chess Association, Sardul Purewal, George Heagle ("The Cotswold Studio," Brad Willis, Micah Hughey and all those who donated small amounts that helped the event.

Special thanks goes to the Kassam and Wang families who provided food and organized the BBQ on the last day, Bruce Thomas and The Roving ChessNuts who provided some of the DGT boards which allowed all the games to be relayed live online. Ali Razzaq was the event TD and he did an excellent job of running a smooth, conflict free tournament. Ali also made sure that games were broadcasted live using the DGT boards. ECC President Terry Seehagen deserves praise for organizing side events and ensuring that finances were in order. Vitaliy Motuz created the tournament website, Jim Daniluk and Rob Gardner helped the tournament by providing rides to the International participants to and from the airport, as well as to places such as West Edmonton Mall. Last but not least, I would like to thank the participants, who played great chess, helped the event to be conflict free and adhered to the anti-draw rule which called for the games to last at least 30 moves before a draw could be offered.

See you next year!

6th Edmonton International Reserves.

By Vlad Rekhson



NM Roy Yearwood (left) vs. NM Nic Hic Haynes (right) Micah Hughey is in the background.

The traditional tournament that is played at the same time as the Edmonton International took place on the Heritage Long weekend between July 30-August 1st. In the past the event typically took place over Saturday and Sunday only; however, this year we decided to include a third day to follow the Calgary International example. This meant that each day would have two rounds. It seemed that the experiment was successful as the attendance was 24 while last year Reserves attracted only 11 participants. This year's event was quite strong as a total of two masters and 6 experts took part.

There was no surprise at the top as first place went to the pre-tournament favourite -Nic Haynes. Nic played a solid event scoring 5.5/6. Second went to the

National master-Roy Yearwood. Roy scored 4.5/6. Third place was an upset as Mike Zeggelaar shared it with Nicka Kalaydina with 4/6. They managed to leap-frog over some higher rated participants to win the prize.

Best junior prize went to Jamil Kassam who scored 3.5/6.

Best under 1800 prizes went to Kevin Smith and Willy Majaducon who scored 3/6 each.

Road Warrior Update



After 12 events Roy Yearwood from Calgary is in the lead with 24 points. He is followed closely by Vlad Rekhson who now lives in Calgary as well. Third place is held by Edmontonian Stephen Stone. Stephen has 17 points.

Fourth place belongs to David Miller from Grande Prairie. David has 16 points. Paul Viminitz from Lethbridge is in 5th with 15 points.

The 2011 road warrior prizes are: \$150 for first, \$100 for second and \$50 for third.

#	Name	Place	Pts
1	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	24.0
2	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	22.0
3	Stephen Stone	Edmonton	17.0
4	David Miller	Grande Prairie	16.0
5	Paul Viminitz	Lethbridge	15.0
6	Sean Perron	Cochrane	14.0
7	John Quiring	Edmonton	13.0
8	Steve Panteluk	Edmonton	13.0
9	Nicolas Haynes	Edmonton	12.0
10	Jim Daniluk	Calgary	11.0

ACA General Meeting

The 2011 ACA General Meeting will take place in the Edmonton Chess Club on Sunday, October 9 at 2:30 pm.

Elections will be held for the positions of:

President,
Treasurer
4 Directors

All paid ACA members in good standing can vote and run for office.

#	Name	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	WGM Tatev Abrahamyan 2343	W 10	W 2	B 3	W 4	B 5	W 6	B 7	W 8	B 9	4.5
2	FM Vladimir Pechenkin 2297 Edmonton, Canada	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0
3	FM Dale Haessel 2211 Calgary, Canada	W 8	B 9	W 1	B 2	W 10	W 4	B 5	W 6	B 7	3.0
4	NM Robert J Gardner 2188 Edmonton, Canada	W 7	B 8	W 9	B 1	W 2	B 3	W 10	W 5	B 6	2.0
5	IM Edward Porper 2444 Edmonton, Canada	W 6	B 7	W 8	B 9	W 1	B 2	W 3	B 4	W 10	5.5
6	NM Belsar Valencia 2204 Philippines	B 5	B 10	W 7	B 8	W 9	B 1	W 2	B 3	W 4	3.5
7	GM Alexander Shabalov 2577 USA	B 4	W 5	B 6	B 10	W 8	B 9	W 1	B 2	W 3	6.5
8	NM Richard Wang 2240 Edmonton, AB	B 3	W 4	B 5	W 6	B 7	B 10	W 9	B 1	W 2	3.0
9	FM Alisa Melekhina 2263 USA	B 2	W 3	B 4	W 5	B 6	W 7	B 8	B 10	W 1	5.0
10	GM Joel Benjamin 2553 USA	B 1	W 6	B 2	W 7	B 3	W 8	B 4	W 9	B 5	7.0

Calgary Chess Club News



CJCC School Event

June 4

Frank Kluytmans put this 10 player junior CFC rated event together. Zeling Li was the class of the field, giving up only half a point to score 3.5/4 to take clear first. Eros Rojas secured clear second with his 3.0/4 performance. Xuyan Zhang and Raphael Libre tied for 3rd-4th with 2.5/4.

CJCC Reserve Active

June 11

Simon Ong organizer and directed this event featuring 14 Calgary juniors. The format was a six round CFC active rated swiss. Ian Zhao made the fewest mistakes and scored a perfect 6/6! Second place a full 1.5 pts behind was Chen Wu with 4.5/6. 3rd and 4th was split between Xuyan Zhang and Staurt Chen with 3.5/6. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Calgary Saturday School

June 25

The format of this 7 player event was a 4 round swiss. Zeling Li and Xuyan Zhang split 1st-2nd each going undefeated scoring 3.5/4. Patience Tram rounded out the medals with a solid 2.5/4, losing only to Zeling en route.

Calgary Open

May 31-June 28

The Calgary Open was the largest event of the year for the club. The event was both CFC and FIDE rated. A total of 24 players competed for cash prizes and valuable rating points. While IM Eric Hansen was at the top of the charts, there were a few anxious moments, especially with his 4th round draw with Alex Yam. Undaunted, Eric still took clear first, undefeated with 4.5/5. Vlad Rekhson had a good tournament, finishing 2nd with 4/5, winning 4 games and losing only to Eric. Alex Yam, Roy Yearwood and Itohan Gold took the rest of the cash, scoring 3.5/5.

August 6 School Tournament

Frank Kluytmans organized this Saturday regular CFC rated tournament. Xuyan Zhang continued his winning ways by taking clear first with a perfect 4/4. Chen Wu finished 2nd, giving up just one point to the top finisher to score 3.4. Stanley Zheng, Eric Hu and Eros Rojas rounded out the field with 2.0/5. This crop of juniors are the future of Calgary chess!

Calgary Chess Club Championship

July 26-August 30

The CCC Championship was a seven round swiss, CFC and FIDE rated this year. NM Dan Kazmaier surprised nobody by clinching top spot with a near perfect 6.5/7. Had Daniel not taken a first round bye, he might have scored a perfect 7! Two Calgary juniors took the final two top spots. Diwen Shi and Krishneel Singh each scored 5/7 to split 2nd-3rd. Itohan Gold had a rough go and decided to cut his losses after losing to Nicka Kalaydina in round 4. Nicka scored a very respectable 4.5/7 to take 4th. Keep an eye on Nicka. She will be playing in the upcoming 2011 World Youth Chess Championship.



ECC Welcome Back Shabba Open

The July Thursday night tournament at the Edmonton Chess Club was named after GM Alexander Shabalov who was coming back to play in the 6th Edmonton International and provide master classes.. A total of 25 participants took part in the event. The surprise winner was Mike Zeggelaar who defeated National Masters

Peter Kalisvaart and Micah Hughey among others.

ECC August Open

The August Thursday night tournament at the Edmonton Chess Club was attended by 24 participants. The surprise winner was Renato Zita who is rated only 1745. As the event is run with accelerated Swiss pairings throughout, lower rated players don't often get a chance to meet the top ones until the end. In future tournaments Renato will no doubt face tougher competition.

Youth Vs. Experience

August 21

#	Player	Old	Results	Total
1	Sequillion, Aaron	2086	W 3 W 4	2
2	Zeggelaar, Mike	2079	D 4 D 3	1
3	Pedersen, Rick	1967	L 1 D 2	0.5
4	Purewal, Sardul	1972	D 2 L 1	0.5

ECC hosted a two game match which was played on August 21st. "Youth" won with the score of 3-1 as Aaron Sequillion won both of his games.

Sequillion-Zeggelaar match

Aaron Sequillion (2079) played a match over the summer against his friend and rival Mike Zeggelaar (2061). Despite the rating parity the match was won by Aaron Sequillion with the score of 4-0.

2011 ACA Tournament Schedule

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

Date	Event	Organizer	Location
Oct 8-10	Alberta Open	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton
Oct 28-30	Edmonton Fall Sectional	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton
Nov 5-6	Alberta Junior	Roy Yearwood	Calgary
Nov 19-20	Southern Alberta Open	Roy Yearwood	Calgary
3-Dec	Christmas Youth Open	Roy Yearwood	Calgary
Dec 17-18	WBX Team Tournament	Ali Razaq	Edmonton



Introduction: Regina-Veronica Kalaydina or as she is affectionately called -Nicka, is the top female player in Alberta. She is a 3 time Canadian Youth champion in the u-10, u-12 and u-14 girls sections. On several other occasions, like this year, Nicka tied for first and only lost the title on tie-breaks. In 2011 the Alberta Chess Association nominated Nicka as its Junior Chess Ambassador awarding her funding for travel. Nicka used the funds to travel to the North American Youth Chess Championship in New-York and later traveled to Ontario for the Canadian Youth Chess Championship and the Canadian Open. Nicka took the time to write the following article about her travels.

Alberta's Youth Attacks the Chessboard

By: *Regina-Veronica Kalaydina*

As the school year comes to an end, I am often faced with the age-old question; what are your plans for the summer? Considering that I'm not the stereotypical nature-lover who hits the campgrounds, nor am I the lucky vacationer hiding out south of the border, I usually grumble in defeat to an eventless, rainy summer. However, this year, several of Alberta's youth and I grabbed the initiative with bare hands and spent the summer representing Alberta at national and international chess competitions. The North American Youth Chess Championship took place from the 25th - 29th of June in Tarrytown, NY, just 30 minutes away from the Big Apple. I received the honor of being the only Albertan on The Canadian Team which

consisted of 22 players. And what an experience it was! Not only did I witness the captivating Manhattan skyline, I also experienced my first tournament where no clocks, trophies or pairings were provided! Despite these inconveniences, I had a decent performance with a tie for 2nd place in the U16 Girls Section. After spending a couple of days walking along the breathtaking promenades of Central Park, I took an 8 hour train from the historic Grand Central Station to Toronto's Union Station. Next up, was the Canadian Youth Chess Championship in Richmond Hill, Ontario, from July 6th -9th.



A qualifier for the World Youth Chess Championship in Caldas Novas, Brazil, the national competition drew a groundbreaking attendance of over 200 chess players under the age of 18. While this meant more money for the organizers, for me and eight of my fellow Albertans, it meant a fight to the death. Although Alberta had positive results from all of its representatives, there were two first place winners, and two ties for first and third place. The U16 Open Champion was none other than David Zhang of Calgary, who had a well-deserved rating performance of over 2250.

Another champion was top seeded Richard Wang of Edmonton, who fulfilled expectations by taking 1st place in the U14 Open Section.

Being a three time Canadian Youth Chess Champion, I was defending my title in the U16 Girls Section. I did my best in a circle of fierce competition, with a tie for 1st place.

David Miller of Grand-Prairie put in a strong performance in a field of both Fide and International Masters, with a tie for 3rd in the U18 Open Section.

Patrick Angelo Tolentino of Calgary, Jamil Kassam of Edmonton and Patience Tram Tuyet of Calgary, all received noteworthy prizes for 2nd place in their junior years, in the U10 Open, U12 Open and U14 Girls sections, respectively.

Another promising performance was put in by Wang Kaixin of Edmonton, who had the biggest rating improvement (almost 200 points!) in the U8 Open Section. So, in conclusion, congratulations to all of the above-mentioned chess stars who represented Alberta and fought for their respective crowns. It's thanks to these determined young chess players, that Alberta's rainy summers are made much sunnier.

Calgary Team Tournament
October 18-November 15



calgarychess.com/2011TT.html

2012 Calgary International Active Grand Prix Series

All tournaments will be held on Sundays, 11am to 4 pm

5 rounds, not CFC rated
\$25 entry fee
Game in 25 + 10 seconds
Grand Prix Format
8 tournaments

Dates (subject to change)
October 2, 2011
November 13, 2011
December 11, 2011
January 15, 2012
February 12, 2012
March 11, 2012
April 15, 2012
May 6, 2012

Visit the 2012 Calgary International Active Grand Prix

<http://www.calgarychess.com/CICCGP.html>
for full details



Brad Willis (left) with Canadian Open co-winner GM Dejan Bojkov
Picture taken by David Cohen

2011 “Pinnacle” Canadian Open

The 48th annual Canadian Open took place in Toronto, ON between July 9-17.

This year’s event will be broken into three sections; the Open section, Under 2000 and Under 1600.

There was a three way tie for the main event as GMs: Walter Arencibia, Joel Benjamin and Dejan Bojkov shared the glory with a total of 7 out of 9.

A total of 9 Albertans took part in the Open section.

Richard Wang (2339) 6/9
FM Vladimir Pechenkin (2408) 6/9
David Miller (2000) 4.5/9
Brad Willis (2094) 4/9
Regina-Veronicka Kalaydina (1904) 3.5/9
Nandor Tot (2119) 3.5/9
Rick Pedersen (1985) 3.5/9
Sardul Purewal (2004) 3.5/9
Ali Razzaq (1967) 2/9

In the U-2000 section Ted Allen (1503) scored 3/9. No Albertans took part in the U-1600 section.

The biggest surprise of the event came in round 1 when Edmontonian Brad Willis defeated GM Dejan Bojkov in a spectacu-

lar game. This awakened the sleeping tiger as GM Bojkov managed to recover and finish the tournament in a tie for first place.

Brad was nice enough to provide annotations of the remarkable game:

White: GM Dejan Bojkov (2544)
Black: Brad Willis (2094 CFC /2018 FIDE)
Canadian Open, Toronto, July 2011 (Rd. 1)
French Defense (3.Nd2, Guimard Variation)

In *The Joys of Chess*, Christian Hesse has a chapter devoted to games like the following, entitled “Crass outsider wins”. Hesse’s description of a typical dark-horse victory is in part as follows: [The optimal strategy is to] deliberately aim for complex and unclear positions in which neither side can know precisely what to do. [This] brings to the game a notable element of chance, [so] it is more likely that the stronger player will make a decisive mistake than he would in quieter lines characterised by positional manoeuvring....in a spiritedly executed attack by the outsider, with sacrifices of material, a single mistake by the favourite can decide the game within only a few more moves.”

The above description fits the following game rather well. Incidentally, GM Bojkov was an exceptionally, and impressively, good sport about it; he even discussed this game in his lecture the next day in Toronto and subsequently in Montreal, and was kind enough to send me some brief comments. He proved that nice guys sometimes finish first by going undefeated the rest of the way, to tie for first at 7/9 with American Joel Benjamin (the winner of our Edmonton International a few weeks later) and Cuban GM Walter Arencibia. As for me, the rest of the Canadian Open (a very well-run tournament, by the way, in a great venue – Toronto’s Harbourfront Westin) was what statisticians call “reversion to the mean”: I finished with four wins, five losses, and no draws!

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ng3

If 4.c3, e5! (John Watson’s exclamation mark) mixes things up. There’s an article on 4.c3 by De Dovitiis in Yearbook 99 concluding, if I understand it correctly, that Black is OK.

4...Nf6 5.e5 Nd7 6.Nb3

The alternatives are 6.Be2, 6.Be3, the immediate 6.Bb5 and 6.c3 (the latter recommended by Tzermiadianos in his recent *How to Beat the French Defence*: the essential guide to the Tarrasch.

6...f6

I had taken a quick look at this line in John Watson’s *Dangerous Weapons: The French*. The author says, “The move 6...f6 is not that good but not as bad as it turned out in the amusing miniature M. Tal -R. Vaganian, Dubna, 1973: 7.Bb5,fxe5; 8.dxe5, Nc5?; 9. Ng5!, Bd7; 10.Bxc6, bxc6; 11. Qh5ch, g6; 12.Qf3 1-0! ” Ouch!. The usual move is 6...a5. Although after 7.a4, Be7; 8.Bb5, Na7!;9.Be2, Vysochin had a tenable game against Tiviakov (Cairo, 2002), Black had a lot less space and after a few not-very-obvious (to me) inaccuracies got ground down in the middlegame.

7.Bb5 a6 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.exf6

I didn’t expect this, opening the b8-h7 diagonal for my bishop, but after 10. 00 perhaps I could get away with 10....c5.

9...Qxf6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.Na5

Bojkov says he’d originally planned 11. Re1, 00;12.Qe2 to prevent 12...e5, but then noticed after 12...e5; 13.de, Nxe5 14. Qxe5??, the awkward 14....Qxf2+.

11...0-0

If 11...c5; Bojkov was planning 12.dxc5,

Nxc5; 12.c4. I really didn't like the look of that, and in glancing at similar Guimard positions I'd thought: "Surely White can't get away with taking the c-pawn!

12.Nxc6

Consternation! He could get away with it.

12...Bb7 13.Na5 Rab8 14.Qe2?

This is a fairly serious mistake. As Bojkov points out, the simple 14. Nxb7, Rxb7; 15.Qd3 is "technically won for White with an extra pawn and a better pawn structure", since Black has only vague attacking chances easy for a GM to rebuff. For example, I thought perhaps I could at some point airlift the a7 Rook to the f-file, if necessary via b6 if

White took the a-pawn]

14...Ba8!



After 14...Ba8

15.c3 Rbe8 16.Kh1

I didn't foresee this subtle defensive move at all.

16...e5 17.Qxa6 e4?!

An instructive inaccuracy---at least, I hope I'll learn from it! If the White King were still on g1 this would be a killer, since ...Bxh2 ch would win the White Queen. But 16.Kh1 put paid to that fantasy. So, as Bojkov points out, "17...exd4 was better, opening as many files as possible", and Fritz bears him out: 18.cxd5, Qg6 [threatening 19...Rxf3] 19. Ng5, h6; 20. Nh3, Qc2; 21. Be3, Qxb2; 22. Rfb1, Qc2; 23. Nb7, Bxb7 with a slight advantage to Black. Now, however, although Black still has a dangerous-looking attack, White ought to have been able to beat back the attack, and eventually cash his queen-side pawns.

18.Ng1 Qh4 19.g3 Qg4 20.Qe2 Qg6

21.Be3 h5?

Too slow. Much better was 21...Nf6, followed by 22...Nh5, for now or on the following move White could play Nh3 and all is consolidated on the White K-side.

22.Nb3

It seems logical to get the Na5 back in play, but doing so allows Black to activate his white-squared Bishop.

22...Nf6?

Better was 22...Qf5 to prevent 23. Nh3.

23.Nd2 Bc6 24.c4?

This move, which during the game I thought was very strong, in fact should let Black get back in the game. 24. Nh3 was still advantageous for White] **24...h4** [I was kicking myself for not having played 23...Bb7, since if I had, 24...c6 would have been possible, but this was a serious misunderstanding of the position; 24. Nh3 would then have given White a bigger advantage.

25.c5 Be7 26.Bf4?

26.a4! was necessary, maintaining White's (by now rather slight) advantage.

26...Bd8?

Overlooking 26...Rb8!, which wins the b-pawn because of the threat of 26...Bb5, and transfers the advantage to Black!

27.b4 Nh5 28.Be5

Now, as Kevin Spraggett points out, either 28...Qh6 or 28...Bd7 would continue to cause White problems. Fritz suggests 28...Bf6!, with advantage to Black!

28...Rxe5 !?!



After 28...Rxe5!?!?

Spraggett in the July 11th, 2011 edition of his exceptionally entertaining and instructive blog. Given the a big hole in my idea, perhaps he was being too generous --- maybe !?!? was more apt.

29.dxe5 d4 30.f3?

As Spraggett noted in his blog, and as GM Bojkov indicated immediately after the game, simply 30. Qc4ch followed by 31 b5 and c6, would have shut the Bishop out of the game and refuted the exchange sac --- which Bojkov had in fact provoked, intending to play 30. Qc4ch. But he fell prey to a hallucination, thinking that after 31.b5, hxc3; 32.fxg3, Nxc3ch; 33.hxc3, Qh6ch; 34.Kg2, Qxd2ch Black had a perpetual, and overlooking 35. Ne2! +- . As for me,

I'd like to be able to say that I had a skein of complex variations in mind, but in fact, like Dickens' Mr. Micawber, I was just trusting that "something would turn up". And luckily, something did, in the welcome shape of 30.f3? Now White is lost. **30...d3! 31.Qg2 e3!** [Tableau!]



After 31...e3!

32.Nb3 hxc3 33.Nd4 Bd5 34.Nh3 Bh4 35.Rg1 Nf4 36.Nxf4 Rxf4 37.hxc3 Rxd4 38.Qh3 Bxf3+ 39.Kh2 Bd8 40.g4 Rxc4 41.Rxc4 Qxc4 0-1

ACA Instructors

Visit the ACA Instructors directory to find out full details on instructors listed below.
<http://albertachess.org/Instruction.html>

IM Edward Porper-Edmonton
NM Robert Gardner-Edmonton,
The Roving ChessNuts-Edmonton
Aaron Sequillion-Edmonton
Calgary Junior Chess Club
NM Roy Yearwood-Calgary
Lethbridge Junior Chess

Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Kent Karapita
Email
kentkarapita@hotmail.com

Medicine Hat Chess Club

Next Step Residential Services
Building

402 Maple Avenue SE
Wednesdays

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



41st Canadian Junior Chess Championship 2012

Entry fee: \$150

To register, send cheques made out to the Calgary Junior Chess Club at the address listed below. If registering on the day of the first round, add \$30 and full payment should be made in cash.

Eligibility: Juniors born after January 1, 1992.

Time Control: 40 moves in 90 minutes, game in 30 minutes + 30 second increment from move 1.

Prizes: Top male and female winner will each receive travel flight vouchers to attend the World Junior Chess Championship 2012 in Athens, Greece, for a value of \$1300 per winner. Cash prizes, trophies and medallions.

Format: Two sections, one 7 Round Swiss for boys When # girls < 4, they will compete in one section with boys One 5-6 Round Robin section for girls when # girls > 4 and < 7 One 7 round Swiss for girls when # girls > 6.

Schedule: All times below are Mountain Standard Time (MST)
Opening Ceremony Thursday, Jan 5, 2012 9:00 AM
Round 1 Thursday, Jan 5, 2012 10:00 AM
Round 2 Thursday, Jan 5, 2012 6:00 PM
Round 3 Friday, Jan 6, 2012 10:00 AM
Round 4 Friday, Jan 6, 2012 6:00 PM
Round 5 Saturday, Jan 7, 2012 10:00 AM
Round 6 Saturday, Jan 7, 2012 6:00 PM
Round 7 Sunday, Jan 8, 2012 10:00 AM
Playoff (if needed) Jan 8, 2012 immediately after round 7.
Awards Ceremony Sunday, Jan 8, 2012 after completion of the tournament.
Transportation from airport to the playing site at CCC will be provided.

Side Events: Wednesday, January 4. Announced at later date. CFC & FIDE rated. All participants must be CFC members.

Address: Calgary Junior Chess Club
274 3359 27 St. NE, Calgary, AB (Parma Tech Centre)
Club Phone: 403-264-9498
Organizer: Frank Kluytmans
e: fkluytmans@hotmail.com c: 403-999-2092

Partnerships:



Alberta Chess Association



Calgary Chess Club

Website: www.cjcc2012.ca

2011 Alberta Open Championship

October 8-10
Edmonton Chess Club

Tournament Director: Rick Pedersen rpetersen@interbaun.com
CFC & FIDE rated. CFC membership is required and can be purchased at site. Your CFC membership must be paid prior to round 1.

Minimum Guaranteed Prize Fund \$1,000

\$400 first place guarantee

Projected Prize Fund (based on 48 entries) \$1,600

The winner (if an Albertan) qualifies to the 2012 Alberta Closed

Format: 6 round Swiss.

Time Control: 90 /40 +30 30, 30-second increment from move 1.

Round Times: Saturday/Sunday 10 am/4 pm, Monday 9 & 3 pm .

Byes: A max of 3 half point byes available in the first 4 rounds.

Entry Fee: \$40 after Oct. 1. Advanced entries can be paid to Rick Pedersen at the Edmonton club or Vlad Rekhson at the Calgary club, or mail a cheque payable to the Edmonton Chess Club. Advanced entries will be posted on our website.

www.albertachess.org/2011AO.html

Onsite registration (if space is still available) on Saturday, October 8th from 9 am to 9:45 am.

ACA General Meeting: The ACA Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday, October 9th at 2:30 pm at the ECC.



2011 Alberta Junior Chess Championship

Calgary Chess Club, 274-3359 27 Street NE (403) 264-9498

November 5 & 6 2011

Winner earns the right to represent Alberta at the next Canadian Junior Chess Championship funded by the ACA

Open to all Albertan juniors who born in 1992 or later (age 20 and under)

Tournament Director: NM Roy Yearwood (roy1nc6@gmail.com)

Tournament Organizer: Simon Ong (simong89@gmail.com)

5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE Rated, CFC membership required (can be purchased on site)

Time Control: G/90 minutes + 30 second increment

Registration: Sign-in at the tournament site from 9:30 am to 9:50 am

Round Time: Saturday 10 am, 2:30 pm, 7:00 pm

Sunday 10 am, ASAP

Entry Fee: \$25 before September 1st, \$30 before October 1st, \$35 after October 1st or onsite
Advance Payment can be dropped off to the Calgary Chess Club OR by mail.

Prize: Cash Prize and Trophies

To pre-register for this event OR have any question/concern, please contact Roy Yearwood (roy1nc6@gmail.com)



2011 Alberta Junior Chess Reserve

Calgary Chess Club, 274-3359 27 Street NE (403) 264-9498

November 5 & 6 2011

Open to all Albertan juniors who born in 1992 or later (age 20 and under)
With CFC Rating of 1400 CFC or below

Tournament Director: NM Roy Yearwood (roy1nc6@gmail.com)

Tournament Organizer: Simon Ong (simong89@gmail.com)

5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE Rated, CFC membership required (can be purchased on site)

Time Control: G/90 minutes + 30 second increment

Registration: Sign-in at the tournament site from 9:30 am to 9:50 am

Round Time: Saturday 10 am, 2:30 pm, 7:00 pm

Sunday 10 am, ASAP

Entry Fee: \$25 before September 1st, \$30 before October 1st, \$35 after October 1st or onsite
Advance Payment can be dropped off to the Calgary Chess Club OR by mail.

Prize: Cash Prize and Trophies

To pre-register for this event OR have any question/concern, please contact Roy Yearwood (roy1nc6@gmail.com)

North takes Battle of Alberta

By Vlad Rekhson

The 16th annual Battle of Alberta took place in the Red-Deer Lodge on September 24th.

For anyone who has not yet heard of what is often affectionately called: "The most important event... ever," here are the rules:

This match is played on 12 boards which are decided according to rating. Each player plays the same opponent twice. The total points are added up and the team that scores the most points gets to keep the trophy for the next year. Names of the winning team players are permanently engraved on the trophy. The official dividing line is the Southern Saskatchewan river in Red-Deer, but in reality this year only Sean Perron, a resident of Cochrane represented a community outside of the two big cities.

There is often quite a bit of back and forth banter and teasing going on leading up to the event, but everyone involved knows that it's all in good fun.

Because of the unique aspect of this event it often attracts some high rated players who don't often play in other events.

The last two editions went in South's favour, but from the onset it appeared that things might just be different this time around, as Alberta's highest rated player; IM Eric Hansen moved to Dallas for studies only several weeks before this event.

There was no change in the team captains, as just like in past few years the North was led by Micah Hughey, while the Southern was captained by Jim Daniluk. The two captains decided to keep the team make-up secret and only exchange the rosters on Tuesday night before the event. As the organizer I was the only one privy to the ongoing registrations which made for some interesting insider knowledge. At one point Jim was contemplating how many 2300+ players the North would have. He figured that they wouldn't get "all of their 6 2300+ players." At that point I knew that the North actually had 8 2300+ guys on the roster (eventually Nic Haynes had to withdraw bringing the total down to seven).

Unfortunately South had no guys over that "magic" marker.

Things went from bad to worse for the South as with only a couple of days before the event, the current Canadian under 16

champion-David Zhang had to withdraw due to illness. According to regulations, because the rosters were already announced his replacement had to be lower rated and he was inserted directly onto that board, so that the other pairings will not be changed. Jim Daniluk was the South's first alternate but he decided to call up Hafiz Karmali who was only slightly lower rated and that allowed Jim to stay as alternate in case there would be other withdrawals. And now without further delay here are the matches:

Board 1:

IM Edward Porper (North, 2522)-NM Alex Yam (South, 2290)
1.5-0.5

Along with board 7, this seemed to be North's most reliable pairing. Alex made a match out of it as he comfortably made a draw with white in game one. He even seemed to be slightly better throughout. Holding black with a Benoni in game two proved a little bit too much as Edward managed to outplay him.

Board 2:

FM Vladimir Pechenkin (North 2409)-FM Dale Haessel (South, 2285)
2-0

FM Pechenkin is one of the province's most solid players. He just finished the 6th Edmonton International with an incredible score of 1 win and 8 draws. Interestingly enough his win came against his current opponent. FM Haessel, on the other hand is very unpredictable. Earlier this year, he finished in dead last at the Alberta Closed, only to follow it up a month later with an improbable IM norm at the Calgary International. This match proved to go with the solidity. In game one Vlad seemed to be outplaying Dale, as the latter flagged in a difficult position. In the second game Dale miscalculated in time pressure once more to resign in a drawn position.

Board 3:

FM Blagoj Gicev (North, 2374)-NM Daniel Kazmaier (South, 2275)
1-1

Blagoj is a very strong and experienced player, but he hasn't played much in the last few years. Dan has been continuously improving and recently showed good form in winning the Over 1800 event. Dan won the first game in a very confident fashion.

In game two he made one bad choice of move which was enough for Blagoj to convert.

Board 4:

NM Richard Wang (North, 2330)-NM Knut Neven (South, 2235)
2-0

Richard continues his inevitable rise upwards and he is getting more and more difficult for the province's top players to contain. Richard showed good positional understanding to win both matches.

Board 5:

NM Jeff Reeve (North, 2322)- NM Roy Yearwood (South, 2208)
2-0

It was nice to see Jeff come back to play after more than a year of hiatus. He showed that he can still play some serious chess as he comfortably defeated the ever dangerous Roy Yearwood. Hopefully, Jeff will not be going from the tournament scene for as long this time around.

Board 6:

NM Rob Gardner (North, 2304)-Brad Booker (South, 2192)
2-0

While Rob "The Rocket" is a very active tournament player, Brad has been mostly absent from the tournament scene. Unlike the previous pairing, activity prevailed this time as Brad made an interesting but most likely unsound piece sacrifice in game one. He probably didn't follow it up in the most precise manner which allowed Rob to consolidate and collect the point. In game two Brad made a typical rust-driven blunder as he gave up a piece in the middle game.

Board 7:

NM Belsar Valencia (North, 2301)-Hafiz Karmali (South, 1999)
2-0

As David Zhang was a last minute withdrawal, Hafiz bravely attempted to step into his shoes. Interestingly enough, the same thing happened last year as Hafiz took over a Southern player's last minute withdrawal to take on Belsar. On that occasion Hafiz managed to score a draw, but this time Belsar was too eager to take home both points.

**Board 8:**

NM Sasa Grumic (North, 2231)-Jean-Francois Wen (South 2136)

1-1

As you might have noticed from the previous results, the first seven boards were completely dominated by the North. In fact, the second round finished with the North winning the top 7 boards with a perfect 7-0. Board 8 marked a gradual change as the two players split the scores. Anyone who knows Sasa would tell you that in all likelihood Sasa would win one game brilliantly and in the other make an incorrect sacrifice and lose. Those who would predict it would be correct.

Board 9:

Peter Kalisvaart (North, 2173)-Itohan Gold (South, 2102)

0-2

This was the one and only match in which the South collected both points. Itohan is a very good tactician and he used his tactical ability to turn questionable positions into victories.

Board 10:

Micah Hughey (North, 2155)-Sean Perron (2093, South)

0.5-1.5

It's not easy to be the captain and play.

There are all sorts of things that Micah had <http://albertachess.org/Games.html>

to be worried about not the least of which was a strong opponent. Micah made two to many blunders in game one and game two ended peacefully.

Board 11:

Aaron Sequillion (North, 2129)-Erik Tam (2077)

0.5-1.5

In game one Erik was up a piece but somehow Aaron managed to claw himself back into it and was awarded with a draw. In game two he wasn't as successful as Erik managed to get the win.

Board 12:

Mike Zeggelaar (North, 2011)-Simon Ong (South, 2026)

1-1

In game one it looked like Mike was completely lost in the endgame. His only hope was that Simon may miss a stalemate trap in time pressure. Unfortunately for Simon, this is exactly what happened. The second game ended in a more sensible draw.

Final Score: 15.5-8.5 for North

I would like to thank Tony Ficzer who did a great job directing the event, doing the DGT board broadcast and taking pictures. The players deserve praise for good sponsorship and special thanks goes to Rob Gardner for doing a traditional "Rocket" victory dance. Watch Youtube for updates on that one!

All games are available on the ACA website's "Games" page.

2011 Southern Alberta Open

November 19-20
Calgary Chess Club

Organizer & TD: Tony Ficzer
tonyficzer@gmail.com

5 round swiss, CFC & FIDE Rated

1st place qualifies to the 2012 Alberta Closed (if an Albertan).

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 seconds
Round Times: Saturday, 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
Sunday, 10am, ASAP

Registration: Early Bird \$30. On-site
Saturday, November 19, 9am to 9:45am
\$35 (cash only)

Pay at the CCC any Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday evening or Saturday afternoon.

Advanced entries by cheque payable to
"Calgary Chess Club" and mail to Calgary
Chess Club, #274 3359 27th St. NE,
Calgary, AB.

Prize Fund: \$600 in total prizes
guaranteed. \$200 1st place guaranteed.
Sum of entries less \$5 per player ACA
tournament fee

www.albertachess.org/2011SAO.html

Southern Alberta Blitz Championship

Friday, November 18: \$10 entry. 80% of
entries returned to prize fund. Other
prizes will also be given out. Doors open
at 7pm, games start at 8pm. 5 double-
round swiss.

Sponsored by the ACA and the CCC

This is a *Road Warrior* Event!

**Play Chess in Alberta's Universities!**

UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Chess Association

Visit us online at

<http://homepages.ucalgary.ca/~chess/index.html>



**University of Lethbridge
Chess Club**

Contact Thomas Fox

Email

chess.club@uleth.ca

Website

<http://people.uleth.ca/~7Echess.club>



- ◇ All skill levels welcome to attend!
- ◇ Blitz once each month in CAB 373 or 369

Email uachess@ualberta.ca for info
<http://uachess.wetpaint.com/>



NATO Military Chess Tournament in Kaunas, Lithuania by Cpl Stephen Stone

"I'm Canadian!"

"So exactly are you doing here?"

Sometimes chess takes you places you might not have otherwise imagined yourself going. Sometimes the military does too. Put the two together, and you'd have the situation I found myself in, explaining to a group of eight girls wearing matching togas what I was doing in their country:

"Well, you see once a year NATO's military forces have a chess tournament. This year it is here in Lithuania!"

"... how do you like Lithuania?"

"Well, I've only been here a few hours..."

"Oh, how strange that we have met you here this way..."

However, apparently large gangs of girls wearing matching outfits is not uncommon for summer in Lithuania. In preparation for their wedding (or their friend's wedding, whom they accompany), groups of women can be found all wearing identical dresses, often selling balloons or alcohol to fundraise. However in the case of my first encounter with this, nothing was being sold: one of the ladies was getting married the next day and, as per night-before-wedding-Lithuanian tradition, men on the street needed to be found to tell the bride to be reasons why she should not get married and why the wedding day would not be fun. This seemed counter-intuitive to me, given the standard "congratulations" offered in any wedding situation I was familiar with, but I was assured that telling the upcoming bride that her wedding would be great was a mistake.

* * *

I have to say, Lithuania is not the first place I would have imagined finding myself travelling in the world. But, given that it was a NATO military event, it seemed strangely fitting. With its vicinity to larger, more powerful neighbours, there is perhaps no other country that would value NATO membership more (it is a newer member, as of 2002). In 1991 Lithuania was the first country to throw off communism and declare independence from the USSR. And at the first opportunity Lithuania became a member of NATO (2002). Currently Lithuania

participates in NATO missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia/Herzegovina and Georgia. It was both wonderful to see a bit of the country, and perhaps tragic to see and learn of some of the scars of its past.

* **

And on to the chess! Generally, the lower rated players of the tournament tend to start around ratings of 1950. On the top end of this year's tournament, Turkey brought Grandmaster Haznedaroglu Kivanc at a rating of 2444.

Canada's team has traditionally been somewhat more... mortal (having a very small army spread across a very large area), but we've been proud to represent our country, give the fights of our lives and take the "scalping" wins where we can. At the end of the day you play the position on the board and not the rating. At 8am every day the games begin. Gifts from home countries are given to opponents (a sign of friendship) before the war on the board starts. A handshake and a wishing of "Good luck" is exchanged before each marathon battle commences. Niceties out of the way, the vicious wars on the board can commence. Forty moves with 2 hours on the clock each, another 30minutes given to both players after 40 moves.

Though I (unfortunately) was not able to steal the same two and a half wins that I had in Denmark, I was able to come home knowing that I beat the person of highest military rank in the tournament: General Hendrik Steffers of Holland (1960 FIDE), head of the International Military Chess Committee (who apparently was none too happy about this, though was quite gracious in post-game analysis). To put things in some perspective, within the army hierarchy there are very few situations where a General (one of the highest ranks) and a Corporal (much closer to the bottom) would amicably interact... So, a game such as this illustrates samples a unique aspect of the tournament, where chess brings together not only forces of different countries but also of unequal ranks, allowing association on equal footing. General Steffers had his revenge by latter beating teammates Major Bellemare and OC Landry.

Major Régis Bellemare, our team captain and organizer, lead the Canadian performance with a FIDE performance

rating 1876 and doing even better on the Friday blitz tournament, taking five wins (and a performance rating of 2035). His constant studies have been lending him great improvement, including even a recent (post-NATO tournament) win over WGM Alina L'Ami (2312 FIDE).

First place at the tournament was taken by Turkey, second by Poland and third by Denmark. Canada trailed further behind... but we we held our own, gave a respectable showing and represented our country well. It was very difficult this year for the Canada to muster a full team, due to the logistics of going to Lithuania. The tournament format normally allows 6 players for a country, and then counts the scores of the top 4 performers. This year we were only just able to muster the minimum 4 players. Having brought a team of 4 has, however, been a critical step as Major Bellemare is planning bring the tournament to Canada in 2014 (in Québec city).

A special thanks must be given to the Running Room and to the Fairley Erker Advisory group, which together sponsored my flight for this event. I am grateful to have been able to participate in this wonderful event and I feel that this experience allows me to share more with newer entrants to the game, as I teach. Certainly it is a wonderful experience when- though perhaps not everyone can speak the same language- everyone can find understanding over a chess board.

If you are in the military (or would consider joining) and are a chess player, the NATO chess tournament is a once a year event and could be a possibility for you! The next one takes place Aug 2012 in France. Additionally, Major Bellemare organizes a yearly Canadian Military Chess Championship in Kingston, Ontario. For more information about chess in the Canadian Forces, send enquiries to Major Bellemare at CFchess@chess.com.

* * *

Cpl Stephen Stone is a musician with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Band and Drumline and also teaches chess in Edmonton elementary schools through the *Roving Chess Nuts* (<http://www.rovingchessnuts.com>).

The Canadian Forces Team (Left to Right) in Kaunas in front of St Michael the Archangel Church

-Officer-Cadet Guillaume Landry; from the Royal Military College in Kingston
 -Gelani Ghiacy; Afghan-Canadian



working for the CF as a civilian through SNC Lavalin. He currently manages the Kandahar Airfield Chess Club (KAF) in Afghanistan.

-Major Régis Bellemare; Team Captain, founder of the KAF Chess Club



-Cpl Stephen Stone; Loyal Edmonton Regiment

Event participants in the War Museum of Lithuania (Kaunas), including 88 players from 15 countries.

Interesting Lithuanian Military Inventions:



Left: Gas mask for dogs. Right: The Armoured Assault Train. Though not particularly effective a weapon, it is credited with having helped win a battle in 1918, due to causing a boost in soldier morale on arrival. [pictures taken from the



War Museum in Kaunas]
 Vilnius Cathedral, in the Historic City Center of Vilnius (Capital of Lithuania)



Cpl Stone considering early game options in round 5.



General Steffers addressing the participants at the opening ceremonies.



Competitors in the tournament hall.

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

AS OF October 2, 2011

1	Porper, Edward	2521
2	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2420
3	Gicev, Blagoj	2370
4	Wang, Richard	2342
5	Haynes, Nicolas	2339
6	Reeve, Jeff	2333
7	Gardner, Robert J.	2316
8	Valencia, Belsar	2306
9	Yam, Alex	2291
10	Kazmaier, Daniel	2279
11	Haessel, Dale	2274
12	Ristic, Nenad	2252
13	Grumic, Sasa	2227
14	Neven, Knut	2223
15	Robichaud, Martin	2211
16	Yearwood, Roy	2194
17	Zhang, David	2186
18	Kaminski, Thomas	2182
19	Booker, Brad	2180
20	Gluckie, Jamin	2156
21	Wen, Jean-Francois	2144
22	Gold, Itohan	2140
23	Kalisvaart, Peter	2135
24	Hughey, Micah	2133
25	Perron, Sean	2115
26	Sequillion, Aaron	2109
27	Rekhson, Vladislav	2098
28	Tam, Erik	2097
29	Tot, Nandor	2084
30	Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz	2079
31	Stark, Mark	2053
32	Newton, Geoff	2050
33	Willis, Bradley J.	2048
34	Miller, David	2045
35	Ong, Simon	2025
36	Beaudry, Lukas	2023
37	Pivovarov, Juraj	2019
38	Daniluk, Jim	2014
39	Zeggelaar, Mike	2012
40	Pua, Richard	2010

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

AS OF MAY 1, 2011

1	Porper, Edward	2449
2	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2300
3	Haessel, Dale R.	2285
4	Wang, Richard	2254
5	Yam, Alex	2214
5	Ristic, Nenad	2198
7	Gardner, Robert	2176
8	Haynes, Nicolas	2173
9	Neven, Knut	2149
10	Kazmaier, Daniel	2134



Hermitage Chess and Picnic on July 17
Section C Above Section B Below

Elementary School Team Match #2
Friday evening, December 2 - Jr./Sr. High Only Tournament at ECC
Sunday, December 11 - Scholastic Christmas Tournament at ECC
Saturday Morning, December 31 - End of 2011

Results of September 11 Back to School Scholastic

Tournament at Edmonton Chess Club

Section A: 1. Etienne Leclerc
2.-3. Tied: Henry Song and Kaining Lin
4. Ian McCullough

Section B:
1. Kaixin Wang
2. David Yao
3. Aren Zita
4. Vinh Nguyen

Section C: 1 Lenard Grossmann
2. Siddhartha Chitrakar
3. Thomasf-Ojedi

Section D: 1. Matthew Zita
2. Ying Li
3. Collin Harrison,
4. Artur Lyssenko
5. Prayush Shrestha



Society of Alberta Chess Knights news

Results of Hermitage Park Chess & Picnic

Section A (cash prizes): 1. Aren Zita, 2.-3. Mark Nie and Zack Kirsch,
4. David McCullough

Section B (cash prizes):
1.-2. Ian McCullough and Matthew Zita,
3. Kaixin Wang,
4. Poplar Wang
5. Alex Broughton
6. Siddhartha Chitrakar

Section C: (medals):
1. Ada Broughton,
2. Scott Glover,
3. Bryn McDougald,

4. Ellis McDougald

Scholastic Chess Schedule

Society of Alberta Chess Knights & The Roving ChessNuts

To be notified of any changes or updates to this schedule, email: societyofchessknights@shaw.ca and you will be sent updated schedules and details of events by e-mail.

Friday evening, October 14 - Jr./Sr. High Only Tournament at ECC

Sunday, October 23 - Elementary School Team Match #1 at ECC

Saturday/Sunday, November 5 & 6 - Alberta Junior Championship in Calgary
Sunday, November 13 - Northern Alberta Scholastic Championship
Friday evening, November 25 -

Results of August 21 Grand Prix Scholastic Chess Tournament

Cash Prizes Awarded:
Section A: Derek Thomas (\$20), Henry Song (\$10), Aren Zita
Section B: David Yao (\$30), Tied Second: Ryan Nowakowsky and Matthew Zita (\$15 each), 4. Kaixin Wang, Tied 5-6: Yashaswi Bhandari and Collin Harrison

Over/Under 1800

By Frank Kluytmans

Over/Under 1800 tournament was held this past weekend Sep 3 and 4, 2011, at the Calgary Chess Club. The Over section was a 5-round Swiss event and had 10 participants, 3 masters and 6 experts with an average rating of 2125.

Congratulations to Dan Kazmaier for winning the event allowing only 1 draw.

The final standings were:

Pos.	Player	Score	Prize
1 st	Daniel Kazmaier	4.5	\$200
2 nd	Nicholas Haynes	4.0	\$110
3-6	Alex Yam	2.5	
	Nandor Tot	2.5	
	Behrooz Shirazi	2.5	
	Sean Perron	2.5	
7 th	Jim Daniluk	2.0	
8 ⁹	Vlad Rekhson	1.5	
	Nicka Kalaydina	1.5	
10 th	Bradley Willis	1.0	

The Under section was also a 5-round Swiss and had 9 participants. Art Milne won all of his five games and took first place.

Pos	Player	Score	Prize
1 st	Art Milne	5.0	\$160
2-3	Brad Jahraus	3.5	\$30
	Jack Davies	3.5	\$30
4 th	Xuyuan Zhang	2.5	\$40 u-1400
5 th	Derek Zhang	2.0	
6-8	Raymond Ong	1.5	
	Zeling Li	1.5	
	George Stacey	1.5	
9 th	Seth Lalla	0.0	

Yam,Alex (2308)- Kazmaier,Dan (2250)
Over/Under 1800 Calgary 02.10.2011
[Kazmaier,Dan]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5

Black is at a crossroads - up half a point in the tournament and content with a draw, how should he play?

4...Be7

I thought the Classical variation would be a solid choice, but knew that fireworks would occur down the road. [The Burns is a another choice, but very passive and allows White to dictate play/tempo. 4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Qd2; The Macutcheon is more active, but offers White good attacking chances. 4...Bb4 5.e5 h6 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 8.Qg4.

5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4!

True to his attacking and enterprising sprit, Alex offers a pawn to speed up development and later facilitate an attack.

6...Bxg5

6...c5 7.Bxe7 Kxe7 (7...Qxe7?! 8.Nb5 0-0 9.Nc7 cxd4 10.Nxa8) 8.dxc5 Nxe5 9.Qe2 Nbc6 10.0-0-0= Although theory gives positions such as this as equal (after 6...c5), I felt a bit cautious given my opponent's will to win, an uncastled king and some loose black-squares.

7.hxg5 Qxg5 8.Nh3 Qe7 9.Qg4

White is the first to deviate from theory. Another alternative: [9.Nf4 Nc6 10.Qg4 g6 11.0-0-0 Nb6 12.Rh6 Bd7.

9...g6 10.Bd3 a6!?

10...Qb4 Black can get away with this move (and perhaps he should!) to equality, but the consequences are hard to see. A good rule of thumb in the French is not to take too much material when offered, especially without your dark-squared bishop. 11.0-0-0 Nxe5 12.Qf4 (12.Bb5+ Qxb5 13.dxe5 (13.Nxb5 Nxg4 14.Nxc7+ Ke7! to protect the f7-pawn in most lines 15.Nxa8 Na6 16.f3 Nf6-+) 13...Qc4= Although equal, White has many tricks on d5 (Bc8 is hanging) that Black needs to calculate/avoid.) 12...Nxd3+ 13.Rxd3 Qe7 14.Ng5.

11.f4?!

Although this is a natural move in most French positions, the Queen is now restricted from f4 and the d4-pawn loses lateral protection.

11...Nc6= 12.0-0-0 Nxd4 13.Ng5 h5 14.Qh4 c5 15.g4 Nb6?

It is natural to try to activate pieces while castling, Black's better aim is to immediately play b5, with an eventual b4

push. A quick Bb7 is also fine (I thought Bd7 would be better in the game). 15...b5!

16.Qf2!?

Alex and I were both pleased with this move in our postmortem, but fixing the h5 -pawn and rotating the Nc3 around seems more precise. [16.gxh5 gxh5 17.Ne2 Nc6 18.Bh7=.

16...Bd7 17.gxh5 gxh5 18.Nh7 0-0-0 19.Rxh5 Nb5³

By trading off minor pieces on the queenside, Black's counterplay starts. **20.Nxb5 Bxb5 21.Bxb5 axb5 22.Rdh1 d4 23.Ng5 Rhf8 24.Rh7 c4?!**

Although this move is quite forceful, it is best to move the Nb6 to a better square, avoiding the Qf2 diagonal. [24...Na4 25.Qd2 c4 26.Qa5 c3.

25.Rd1?

White naturally swings a rook to over, but Black is now able to break through the king's defences. 25.c3!=.

25...c3 26.Rxd4

26.bxc3? Nc4+.

26...cxb2+ 27.Kb1

Alex carefully navigates to the safest haven - it is now up for Black to find the win continuation. [27.Kxb2? Rxd4 28.Qxd4 Nc4+ 29.Kc1 Qa3+ 30.Kd1 Rd8+.

27...Rxd4??=

Amazingly, we both thought that Black wins with this and the following moves, but Fritz has shown us a drawing line!

28.Qxd4 Rd8

28...Nc4 29.Nxe6 Rg8 30.Nc5 b6 31.Nb3 Rd8+ A better way for Black to win.

29.Qc3+?

We had both calculated 29.Rxf7 Rxd4 30.Rxe7 Nc4 as losing for White, but Alex has the incredible 31.Re8+ Kd7 32.Rd8+!! Kxd8 33.Nxe6+ Kd7 34.Nxd4+- reversing his fortunes to an easy 1-0 endgame.

29...Nc4

The remaining moves were played on increments, with Black forcing his way towards White's king.

30.Rh1 Qd7 31.Qd3 Qc6 32.Qh3 Qd5 33.Qh5 Qd4 34.a3 Nxa3+ 35.Ka2 b1Q+

35...Qa4 is a faster finish. **36.Rxb1 Nxb1 37.Kxb1 Qb4+ 38.Ka2 Rd2 39.Qh8+ Kc7 40.Qh7 Qc3 41.Qxf7+ Kb6 42.Qxe6+ Ka5**

All in all, Alex and I thought this game was very exciting, where the result was always in question. From both of our perspectives, we agree that playing with or against the French defence can produce some very interesting and dynamic chess!

0-1

Chess at Canadian Ismaili Games (CIG) 2011

By TD Jamil F. Kassam

Edmonton was privileged to host the 2nd CIG in 2011, a gathering of Ismaili Muslims across Canada to celebrate the talent of Canadian Ismaili athletes in badminton, ball hockey, basketball, cricket, golf, international volleyball, soccer, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, traditional volleyball, and, of course, no games would be complete without the game of kings and queens – Chess. The winning athlete or team for each sport gets to represent Canada at an international level at the World Ismaili Games. .

Its background goes back to the 1st CIG in Vancouver 2008, which was held for the first time because of the Golden Jubilee, the celebration of 50 years of guidance from Ismaili Muslims present leader. Since then, it has been, and will continue to be, a tradition for Ismaili Muslims across the world.

The rules for this tournament were according to FIDE regulations, besides the rewarding of points, where for a win, you get 2 points, 1 for a draw, and 0 points for a loss. Games were 45 minutes for each side with no increment. After spending 5 hours of my Saturday getting trained by ACA director and International Arbiter Vlad Rekhson, I was lucky to be able to direct this tournament.

Although there were 8 entries, only 4 people showed up, 2 from Ontario, 1 from Calgary and one from Edmonton. Despite the upset in tournament planning, we played the first round according to the pairings that I had prepared. The games in the first round finished way too quickly, as the players were used to online chess. The results were that both players from Ontario defeated their Albertan opponents.

Round 2 was a battle that followed the opening ceremonies. Shakil Nobes defeated Aleem Visram, both from Ontario in a close attacking game with Shakil on the attack at Aleem’s king in the centre, eventually succeeding. Pervez Sunderani, from Edmonton, beat Jehangir Gillani, from Calgary, in a King hunt that drove black’s king all the way to h6, where it was eventually mated. At the end of the round, the Ontarians were clear ahead when I proposed the idea of a double round robin. The Ontarians were good sports and accepted the offer, making the tournament 6 rounds instead of 3.

Finishing the first day was the third round, where Jehangir Gillani nearly beat Aleem Visram, but blundered his rook in the endgame, and ended up with a loss in the end. Shakil won Pervez in a quick but slow-paced game with the idea to just pick upon Pervez’s mistakes.

For the 4th round, the game between Aleem and Pervez (picture) had some real fire, with Aleem winning on time in a position which favoured Pervez. Shakil managed to pull off his fourth win in the tournament in a very fast game.

There was no stopping Shakil for the next two rounds and he won a perfect score. He had an exciting game though, in round 5 against Aleem Visram: 2nd place. Aleem had a strong Sicilian setup, and castled safely, but Shakil surprised everybody with an unsound-looking Nxe6 sacrifice, but it worked, and he won the game in a suitable manner of this sacrifice, with a pawn promotion

Near the end of the event, all the participants, volunteers and organizers, took a photo together (picture)



Pervez on the left, Aleem on the right, and me recording in the centre.



Left to right

Front row:

Aqil Kassam, Jehangir Gillani, Jamil Kassam, Pervez Sunderani, Nabil Kassam

Back row:

Aleem Visram, Shakil Nobes, Fayaz Kassam, Rozina Kassam

Aleem Visram-Shakil Nobes 0-1

Notes by: Jamil Kassam

Scotch Four Knights and Four Knights with 4 g3

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Nf6 6.Nc3 6.Nxc6 dxc6 7.Bxc5 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1. 6...Bb4 7.Bb5

Place	Player	1	2	3	4	Total	Place
1	Shakil Nobes	X X	2 2	2 2	2 2	12	1st
2	Aleem Visram	0 0	X X	2 2	2 2	8	2nd
3	Jehangir Gillani	0 0	0 0	X X	0 2	2	3rd
4	Pervez Sunderani	0 0	0 0	2 0	X X	2	3rd

7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 d6 9.f3 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Bd2 0-0 12.0-0 Rb8 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.Be3 Bd6 15.f4 c5 16.Qh5 f5 17.b3 Qf6 18.Rac1 Bb7 19.Bf2 Rbc8 20.Bh4 Qd4+ 21.Kh1 g6 Votava,J (2435) -Hebden,M (2510)/Rishon Le Ziyyon 1-).

7...Nxd4??

Black has let his advantage slip away 7...0-0 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.c5 Ne4 10.Bd2 Qxd4 11.0-0 Qxd2 12.Qxd2 Nxd2 0-1 (12) Acikgoz,M-Secheres,A/Kemerli 2007/7...Nxe4 8.Qd3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Be7=.

8.Qxd4± Bxc3+ 9.Qxc3 0-0 10.Bd3

White is way ahead in development, and has the space advantage.

10...Re8 11.e5

Not the best idea in position, overexpanding the position. 11.f3!?=.

11...Nd5

White loses the 2 bishops.

12.Qd4 Nxe3 13.Qxe3

Black has a cramped position. Black's piece can't move: c8.

13...d6

Black threatens to win material: d6xe5.

14.Qd4?

14.0-0-0 White retains his better development, and has a better position. 14...Qh4 (14...Rxe5 Is a dead blunder 15.Qxe5 dxe5 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Rxd8) 15.f4=.

14...Rxe5+-+ 15.Be4??

A blunder in a bad position 15.Kf1 Be6-+.

15...Qf6

15...Qh4 makes sure everything is clear 16.0-0 Qxe4 17.Qxe4 Rxe4 18.f3-+.

16.f3??

Sad, but how else could White save the game? [16.0-0 c5 17.Qd3 Bf5 18.Bxf5 Rxf5=.

16...Bf5

16...c5 17.Qd2 d5-+.

17.Rf1??

An oversight. But White was lost anyway. [17.0-0 Bxe4 18.fxc4-+.

17...Rxe4+!

Wins the game on the spot. Black easily converted the point.

18.Qxe4 Bxe4 19.fxe4 Qxb2 20.Kd2 Re8 21.Kd3 Qb5+ 22.c4 Qb2 23.Rg1 h5 24.h3 c5 25.g3 Qd4+ 26.Kc2?? Qxc4+ 27.Kb2 Rxe4 28.Rac1 Re2+ 29.Rc2 Qxc2+ 30.Ka3 Qxa2# 0-1



17 MHO Tournament winners. From left to right: Jordarn Schibler, Vlad Rekhson, Sean Perron

17th Medicine Hat Open

By Tony Ficzero

It was a good weekend in the Hat. If you count me, there were 19 players in the tournament, I played the final two rounds when one of the players dropped out. Bill Taylor put on his usual great event and provided everyone with free drinks, desserts, jokes, you name it. A great host all around.

On the chess side of things, there was a 3 way tie for first between Vlad Rekhson, Sean Perron and Jordan Schibler with 4/5. Vlad was lucky in his encounter with Jordan as he clawed his way back from a lost position to get a draw. The last round was a bit anti-climatic as Rekhson vs. Perron did not result in blood, they agreed to piece before move 25.

In the Under 1601 section, Peter Davis-Imhof took clear first with 3/5, followed by Paul Viminitz and David Woodroffe (new member) who scored 2.5.5. Steve Panteluk won the biggest upset for his win over Dr. Taylor. There were very few upsets this weekend overall, and the competition was tight.

Thanks to Mrs. Taylor for providing the food, Bill for organizing, the Edmonton Chess Club for the DGT board and all who turned out for the event. The tournament was both CFC and FIDE rated and should be up on the CFC website.

2011 Edmonton Fall Sectional

Edmonton Chess Club
October 28-30, 2010



Six Player Round
Robins

CFC & FIDE Rated in top section.

No byes allowed

Tournament Organizer: Rick Pedersen;
email: rpedersen@interbaun.com

Time Control: 40 moves in 90 minutes, then game in 30 minutes, 30 second increment from move 1.

Entry Fee: \$30 before Thursday, October 20. \$35 until October 24th. **Full refund is available if requested by October 20.**

Process of payment: In Edmonton you can pay Rick Pedersen or Terry Seehagen either by cash or by cheque made to the; Edmonton Chess Club.

Outside of Edmonton: In Calgary you can pay cash to Vlad Rekhson, or send a cheque to the Edmonton Chess Club

Registration: **No on site registration.**

You must pay to register. Official registration closes on Monday, October 24. After that entries will only be allowed to make all sections consisting of six players, or to have replacements.

Pairings will come out on the evening of Thursday, October 27th.

Schedule:

Round 1: Friday, October 28 7 pm

Round 2: Saturday, October 29 11 am

Round 3: Saturday, October 29 4 pm

Round 4: Sunday, October 30 11 am

Round 5: Sunday, October 30 4 pm or

ASAP after round 4.

Prizes: 100% of entries minus \$5 ACA fees per entry. \$150 per section guaranteed, more in the top section.

Sections formatting: Sections will be made using the higher of CFC or FIDE rating. Players will be slotted in sections according to their rating. Unrated players will count as 1500 for section purposes, unless the organizer decides otherwise.

This is a *Road Warrior* Event



2011 WBX Team Tournament

Team tournament.-Edmonton Chess Club Dec 17-18

Format: Teams of three players with one possible substitute. Maximum average rating:2000.

Watch www.albertachess.org for updates.

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN ALBERTA!

Airdrie Chess Club
Airdrie Public Library
111 304 Main Street Contact: Larry
Besplug (president) email:
besplug@shaw.ca or Dennis Young:
panaspor@hotmail.com

Calgary Chess Club
274 3359 27th St. NE
Parma Tech Centre, North Building
Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Friday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
phone: 403.264.9498
website: www.calgarychess.com

Calgary Junior Chess Club
Contact: Simon Ong
email: simong89@yahoo.ca
website: <http://sites.google.com/site/calgaryjuniorchessclub>

University of Calgary Chess Club
email: chess@ucalgary.ca
website: <http://sites.google.com/site/calgaryjuniorchessclub>

Edmonton Chess Club
204 10840-124 St
Mondays and Thursdays 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
phone: 780.424.0283
website: www.edmontonchessclub.org

Edmonton Casual Chess
For general information or if you are
interested in setting up a new casual site
in Northern Alberta, contact Bruce
Thomas of the rovingchessnuts.
phone: 780.474.2318
email: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

Grande Prairie Chess Club
Contact Tim Pradzinski
phone: 780.518.2281
email: database@telusplanet.net
website: www.gpchessclub.com

University of Alberta
Student Union Building, 8900 114th St.
Open area tables in the food court, main
floor. Casual games between 3:30 p.m.-
6:30 p.m. email: uachess@ualberta.ca
website: <http://uachess.wetpaint.com>

Lethbridge Junior Chess
Family Centre, Suite 225, 200 - 4th
Avenue South, Lethbridge Centre
Towards a Brighter Future Presentation
Room. 2:30-4:00 pm Fridays
Phone: 403.320.4232
Website: <http://www.famcentre.ca/>
Contact: Kent Karapita
kentkarapita@hotmail.com
Peter Davis-Imhoff:
peter.davisimhof@gmail.com

La Crete Chess Club
Contact: Chris White
H: (780)9283523 W: (780)9283632
email: fagandrivpark@hotmail.com

Lethbridge Chess Club
Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South
(on the second floor in the games room)
6:00pm until 9 or 10pm
Contact: Paul Viminitz vimp0@uleth.ca

University of Lethbridge Chess Club
e-mail: chess.club@uleth.ca
website: <http://people.uleth.ca/%7Echess.club>

Lloydminster
Contact: Terry Chaisson
phone: 780.875.8186 or 780.871.3995

Okotoks Chess Club
Contact: Richard Bradley
Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca

Medicine Hat Chess Club
402 Maple Avenue SE
Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Contact: Bill Taylor phone: 403.526.5484
email: taylormw@shaw.ca

Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club
Earl Kitchener School, Community Room
211 4th St. S.E. End of October to early
March, Saturdays 1:30-4 p.m.
Contact: Bill Taylor Ph:403.526.5484
email: taylormw@shaw.ca

Sherwood Park
Strathcona County Library, 2nd Floor
Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to closing
Contact: Les Jones phone: 780.467.7393

Wainwright Chess Club
Showtime Video 701-10 Main St.
Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Contact: Allen Tinio phone: 780.842.4123
email: amtinio@telus.net

The Alberta Chess Association is
pleased to help out our existing chess
clubs with any support they may
require. We also encourage the
formation of new clubs through our
Chess Club seeding program. If you
would like to start a chess
club in your town, please contact the
ACA to see if you qualify for the
program.

Email
vrekhson@yahoo.ca
for more information



Contact us:

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

www.gpchessclub.com

Calgary Chess Club



274 3359 27th St. NE
Tuesdays, Thursdays
Fridays from 7 p.m.
Saturday Junior program
1-4pm

Lessons available
www.calgarychess.com

Edmonton Chess Club

#204, 10840-124 St.



Mondays & Thursday

7-11 p.m.

Saturdays

1-5 p.m.

Phone 780.424.0283

Website

www.edmontonchessclub.org

