

Alberta Chess Report



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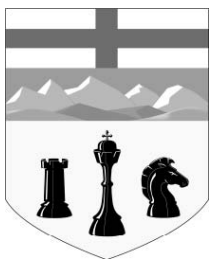
Organizer Micah Hughey with the
7th Edmonton International winner-
GM Nigel Short



Eric Hansen becomes
Alberta's first Grandmaster



Great summer for Alberta
Masters as Richard
Wang becomes an IM
while Rob Gardner and
Vladimir Pechenkin earn
their first IM norms



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

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GM Short emerges victorious at 7th Edmonton International

By Vlad Rekhson

Suppose that our local tournament could get an elite player who is a former world championship finalist, and is also an interesting and a personable individual. Who would we rather have? Many would answer this hypothetical question with: GM Nigel Short! Lo and behold, this year's Edmonton International Chess Festival was honoured with the famous Englishman's presence. We found out about Nigel's arrival during the qualifier tournament. When the winner NM Rob Gardner found out this piece of news he had to ask: Is this an April fool's joke? Well it wasn't and Nigel in fact was coming to the city of champions as he accepted organizer Micah Hughey's invitation. Of course bringing a GM of this caliber isn't cheap. While Nigel's appearance fee was not astronomic, it was of course higher than that of a regular GM. At this point, Micah went to work and did a great job fundraising for this event. As a result Nigel's appearance was paid for through the chess community without even using public funds. At this point I would like to thank all those that helped make it happen. This event wouldn't have been the same without the support of Dale Haessel's company, Sardul Purewal, Zhixiang Wang, Ali Razzaq, Rick Pedersen, Manuel Borja, Mike Sekuloff, George Sponga, Joskin Cleto, Bradley J. Willis and a number of other contributors

of all levels.

Even before the start it was evident that Nigel's participation would draw more people than usual to this tournament. The night before the start Nigel conducted a lecture at the Edmonton Chess Club. There was barely any space left to sit in as over 40 club players of all levels came by to see GM Short. This led to an increased attendance for the IM Krush simul which followed right after and was sold out at 20 participants.



And now lets go on to the tournament. First the competitors; GM Nigel Short needs no special introduction. His biggest accomplishment was playing a world championship match against Garry Kasparov in 1993. Nigel qualified to this match after going through a very tough field which included Anatoly Karpov. At the age of 47 Nigel is the oldest of the '2700 club' as he entered the International with a rating of 2705! The second highest rated participant was GM Anton Kovalyov (2619) who just shared first in the Calgary International a month earlier. Anton is still representing Argentina but he is in the process of switching federations to Canada

as he currently lives in Montreal. The third highest participant was GM Victor Mikhalevski (2519, Israel). This was Victor's second appearance in the Edmonton International as he tied for first back in 2009. Instead of a hotel Victor together with IM Leon Piasetski stayed with me. It was quite a bit of fun to host the two of them as besides being great guests I was able to observe some high level preparation in person. Current US women's champion, IM Irina Krush (2459) was ranked 4th. The first of the Alberta delegation, IM Edward Porper (2414) was ranked 5th. 6th through 8th were only separated by eight points. Edmonton champion, FM Vladimir Pechenkin (2312) just came off a great performance in the Calgary International where he earned his first IM norm. The Edmonton International hasn't been traditionally a good event for Vlad as going into this event he only won one game in his previous 28. 13 year old FM Richard Wang (2307), saw his rating rise quite rapidly as of late, and an IM norm appeared to be a real possibility for him. The 8th ranked IM Leon Piasetski (2304) was a good addition to the event as he brought a friendly demeanor and an interesting approach to the game. NM Rob Gardner (2202) entered the event as the winner of a qualifier. Not too many were giving him much of a chance in this event beyond having some exciting games, which Rob is always good for. Boy were the naysayers surprised! Last but not least was Calgarian FM Dale Haessel (2161). Dale has a reputation for being a streaky player. He can have a tremendous result like last year's Calgary International followed by some really sub par performances.

The event itself saw an innovation in the scoring system. In addition to the no draw before move 30 rule, the soccer scoring system was now used. Winner gets 3 points, loser 0 and both players receive 1 point in case of a draw. It is difficult to say whether this had much of an impact on the games but the second place was in fact decided because of this system. The first round of the International provided quite an upset. GM Victor Mikhalevski took a poisoned pawn against GM Short. With perfect play Nigel should have punished the greed but he didn't find the right moves and Victor won in complications. Surprisingly all other games were drawn which resulted in GM

Short being in last place all by himself.

GM Mikhalevski, Victor (2519) - GM Short, Nigel (2705) [A26]

7th Edmonton International (1)



The position has reached a boiling point as every move can make or break the game.

25.Qxa7?!

Objectively speaking this move allows black to win the game as after the correct 25...Qb2! Rf1 Kg8! Where the threat of Be4 forces white to give up an exchange on f2. Unfortunately, Nigel did not choose the correct continuation.

h5? 26.h3 Qb2 27.Rf1 Re2 28.Qxb7+ Kh6 29.Ne7 Rxc2+ 30.Qxc2 Qd4+ 31.Kh1 Ne3

(31...Be4! would keep black in the game)

32.Qf2 Qe4+ 33.Kg1 Qxe7 34.Re1 d5 35.Rxe3 Qxb4 36.cxd5 Qc5 37.Re6 1-0



Naturally, we didn't expect this to last. In round 2, GM Short achieved his first victory as he quickly defeated NM Gardner. FM Pechenkin suffered his first Edmonton International defeat as he succumbed to GM Anton Kovalyov. The second upset win of the tournament occurred as FM Wang defeated IM Krush with the black pieces.

GM Kovalyov, A (2619) - FM

Pechenkin, V (2312) [A81]

7th Edmonton International Edmonton

[GM Anton Kovalyov]

1.Nf3 f5 2.b3!?

I decided to not go into any theory, and just play a setup that I often play with black against 1.f4. I thought if I play it with black and have good results why not do it with white and an extra tempo..

2...d6 3.d4 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bb2 Nf6 6.Bg2 0-0 Black moves are all standard in this position. The idea of my setup will become clear in a few more moves

7.Nbd2 Qe8 8.a4 h6

[8...e5? 9.dxe5 Ng4 10.Nc4 Nxe5 (10...dxe5 11.h3 black is in big trouble.) 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qd5+ Kh8 13.Bxe5]

9.Nc4

Yes, the knight goes to c4 not the pawn (this explains 8.a4, as any eventual b5 pushing the knight away is now not possible), it looks pretty awkward at first, but actually white prevents any future e5 by black. Still this is not the only knight maneuver...

9...c6 [9...Be6 10.0-0 Qf7 11.Nfd2 Perhaps this was a better continuation for black, still, I like my position, my main idea would be to play f3-e4, whether doing it right away or preparing with c3-Qc2-Qd3.]

10.0-0 g5 11.Ne1!

This is the main maneuver in this setup, the knight goes to d3, it still controls the important e5 square and at the same time it frees the way for f3-e4, I can't ask for more here.

11...Na6

[Black can't hope for any serious attack even after 11...f4 12.Nd3 (12.e4!?) 12...Qh5 (12...fxg3 13.fxg3 with a dream position for white, black has no chances for counterplay, and if white achieves e4, my opponent may want to resign right away...) 13.gxf4 Ng4 (13...Bh3 14.e3) 14.h3 So here I can come to the conclusion 11...f4 only achieves another weakness in the black position.]

12.Nd3 Nc7

As there are no serious chances for attack in the kingside or playing e5, developing becomes important in the black position.

13.f3

I was playing pretty fast, as it is just simple moves that I already played in many rapid and blitz games, but with black and a tempo less. Just knowing the setup and using some logic is enough in this line for me.

13...Qg6 14.e3

I have a lot of time, I want to prepare e4 as well as possible.

14...Bd7

[14...g4 15.Nf4 black prevents e4, but it just looks wrong for him.]

15.Qe2 Qh5

temporarily preventing e4.

16.Rae1 Rae8 17.h3?!

[17.Qd2 preparing e4, this just looks close to crushing. It's kind of strange how fast with just simple maneuvering moves white got such a clear advantage. Black should have chosen another way to play earlier in the game, as just normal play is not good enough to get a decent position out of the opening in this line.]

17...Ne6

I'm still better but this move looks really strange. [I expected 17...Qg6 and if 18.e4 Nh5 with good counterplay. Still I think I can just prepare e4 and play it sooner or later in better circumstances, as black play in this position is just waiting and preventing.]

18.a5?

Nonsense, Qd2 again was the move, I thought I can do whatever I want as black doesn't have any counterplay. I was wrong, this was the perfect time to find a good move...

18...Nd5!

Now I realised black wants to play the very annoying f4, so here I finally have to do something.

19.g4 fxg4?

[This was my opponent's chance to play 19...Qg6 and maintain the tension, white is probably not even better here. What I missed is 20.gxf5 Rxf5 21.e4?? Ndf4 And white is in big trouble, I missed 22.ef5 Nxe2 is check! I know this is very basic, but it happens. Sometimes I'm too lazy to calculate a few moves in a row...; If 19...Qh4 I was thinking about 20.Qf2 Qxf2+ 21.Kxf2 with a nice ending for white. Black knights will start retreating soon.]

20.fxg4 Qg6

[20...Qh4 21.Nd2 black queen may be in trouble here, this just felt bad for black, he will probably have to sacrifice a pawn with h5.]

21.Nd2!

This is a very logical move but still looks nice, white threatens Be4 and also c4, starting to push the pawns. Black is in big trouble now.

21...Rxf1+



How should white recapture?

22.Nxf1!

The knight goes to g3 controlling e4, f5 and h5. Black has no counterplay at all, white will very soon gain a lot of space and push all black pieces back:

22...Rf8 23.Ng3 Qe8 24.Nf5 Rf7 25.c4 Nf6 26.e4

As I said before, just 4 simple moves and white is now winning. Even I was impressed how fast it happened, after black's mistake 19...fg4 I started playing a bit too fast, but I couldn't control myself... My moves were too obvious.

26...Bf8 27.Qe3!

There is no need to hurry white controls f4 and at some point aims at a7 after an eventual pawn push. Still I think it is a pretty simple move, but it deserves an exclamation mark! I think black could have held better, but it is really difficult to play a position where you just want to resign...

27...Nc7 28.e5 Nh7

[28...dxe5 29.dxe5 Nh7 30.e6 Nxe6 (30...Bxe6 31.Qe5 threatening mate and the c7 knight at the same time.) 31.Ne5 is crushing, white can also take the a7 pawn.]

29.d5 cxd5

[29...Bxf5 30.exd6 exd6 (30...Bxd3 31.dxc7 Bg6 32.Qe6 and the pawn can't be stopped.) 31.Qd4 and black loses the queen or gets mated]

30.exd6 Bxf5

The rest is too obvious to require any commentary... [30...exd6 31.Qd4 Again, black loses the queen or gets mated.(Also 31.Qxe8!? Bxe8 32.Bxd5 Nxd5 33.Rxe8 wins, treating Nxh6 and cd5 at the same time.)]

31.gxf5 dxc4 32.dxc7 cxd3 33.Qe6 d2 34.Rd1 1-0

In round 3, the featured game was IM Porper against GM Short. Edward got a

dream position out of the opening, but Nigel is not one to give up just because his position is bad. He created complications and won the game. GM Kovalyov continued beating Edmontonians, this time his victim was FM Richard Wang.

FM Wang, Richard (2307) - GM Kovalyov, A (2619) [E06]

7th Edmonton International Edmonton (GM Anton Kovalyov)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 c6!?

Well, I know this move looks extremely weird. My idea is simple, I want to transpose to the closed Catalan, in which I feel quite comfortable playing with the black pieces.

5.Bg2 d5 6.Nbd2

This move means white accepts transposing to the closed Catalan without trying to refute such strange play by black. There are also other choices such as 6.0-0, 6.Nc3 and 6.Ne5. Not counting 6.Qc2 or 6.Bf4 as they sooner or later will just transpose to the options mentioned before.

6...Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 Bb7 9.e4 Na6!

The idea is simple, black doesn't want to release the tension in the center with 9...de4, and at the same time makes a developing move without taking away the d7 square for the f6 knight in case white plays an eventual 10. e5. I admit an exclamation mark might be quite exaggerated, but I feel this is the best and also the least analyzed move in this position.

10.e5

[The main option in my opinion would be 10.a3 preventing any future Nb4 and at the same time hoping to gain more space playing b4. Black's main option here, would be 10...c5 with a perfectly playable position for both sides, it's too soon to give an evaluation right here ...]

10...Nd7 11.a3

If my opponent wanted to go into this position (as far as I know he prepared a bit, but confused the move order) he should have played 10.a3 c5 11. e5 Nd7. As now the difference is that I have another choice rather than playing c5 right away: **11...Nc7!?**

The idea is simple, I plan playing c5 and if white now plays 12.b4 I can answer with the extremely annoying 12...a5. [11...c5 12.dxc5 bxc5 (12...Naxc5 13.b4 Na6 with a very slight advantage for white, but still with a playable position for the black side. Still taking with the knight and then

retreating back to a6 doesn't look so good. (13...Ne4 14.cxd5 Nxd2 (14...exd5 15.Bb2 with a nice edge for white, this kind of structure is usually not good for the black side unless there is some sort of counterplay (in this case there's not), as the d5 pawn tends to be a weakness.) 15.Nxd2±)]

12.Re1

[If 12.cxd5 all three black captures are perfectly playable!]

12...a5 13.h4

White has the space advantage, but this doesn't mean he's better as I can play c5 at any given time with a pretty nice counterplay.

13...h6

preventing any future Ng5s...

14.Nf1

White hopes to have some attacking ideas in the kingside and at the same time free the c1 bishop.

14...c5

there was no way to prevent this...

15.dxc5 Nxc5

[15...Bxc5 was the better choice in my opinion as it gives some breathing room for the black queen, that can now go to e7. I like my position here.]

16.Rd1 Qe8

I was extremely proud of this move as it goes away from the pin and at the same time controls a4 for an eventual Bc6-Ba4 threat or sometimes transposing to a convenient ending (depending on the situation) with Qa4. But after a few more moves I realized there's nothing special about it... Maybe I had better alternatives.

17.Ne3 dxc4 18.Nxc4 Nd5!?

[18...Be4 19.Qe2 Nd5 It's very hard for me to understand why I didn't play this, it's obvious that black has a good position (probably no more tough) .]

19.Nd4

I underestimated this move, still I missed an interesting idea now:

19...b5

[I could just play 19...a4 without fearing losing a pawn, as after 20.Bxd5 Bxd5 21.Nxb6 Be4 it's obvious black has a very nice compensation due to black's very strong light squared bishop.]

20.Bxd5?

Huge mistake from my opponent, I couldn't believe it when Richard played this move. [20.Ne3 Nxe3 21.Bxe3 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 and white has a very slight edge (space advantage and good piece coordination, black's knight should be on d5, from where unfortunately it's quite far.



After 20. Bxd5?

This is the line I feared the most, as even if I find a way to equalize (which I'm sure I have) I don't have any real hope to win this, white's play is quite simple, the main idea would be Qe2-Qf3.; 20.Nd6 Bxd6 21.exd6 Rc8 22.Qe2 and it's not really clear whether d6 is a weakness or a strength, still I think white is more than ok, and black has to be careful.]

20...Bxd5 21.Nxa5

[21.Nb6? Be4 I guess my opponent missed this.]

21...Rxa5 22.b4 Ra4! 23.bxc5 Rc4

Also it might be Richard just missed this simple continuation.

24.Qb2 Bxc5

My bishops look quite nice, white's in big trouble on the light squares now. Now I can say I'm clearly better.

25.Nxb5?

This is just insane, Richard's position is way too suspicious after this move. White should be rather thinking how to save this mess instead of getting any deeper into it. [25.Be3 Qa8 It's clear that white is in huge trouble here, but there's nothing clear yet for black.]

25...Qc6?!

Now it's a matter of finding one of the winning continuations. As I said before white's position is too suspicious. I was sure I'm winning here, but I missed a simpler idea: [25...f6! opening the way for the rook and queen seems to win on the spot, as I don't think white can defend the kingside without huge losses...]

26.Kh2

black was treating 26...Bh1.

26...Bf3

[And again 26...f6! should be just winning.]

27.Re1

[So the truth is that I played Bf3 just hoping for 27.Rf1 which seems to make

more sense as it overprotects the f2 pawn, but there is one drawback, which my opponent saw: 27...Rxh4+!! 28.gxh4 Qe4 with a mating attack, I know it's unprofessional from me, but I was dreaming for a long time to end the game like this... Unfortunately it never came...]

27...Bb6

After the best defence 27.Re1 It took me some time to find the winning continuation (still there is probably more than one):

28.Ra2 Ba5 29.Rg1 Rb8 30.a4 Bc3!

The winning shot.

31.Qa3 Bxc5 32.Bf4 Bxf4 33.gxf4 Rxf4 34.Qe7 Qc4 0-1

Round 4 was once again without too many upsets. GM Short continued his winning ways. This time, the victim was FM Haessel. NM Gardner created the biggest upset as he once again showed that he was in good form, holding IM Krush to a draw with the black pieces.

The biggest upset of the tournament (surprisingly enough by a relatively small margin) came in round 5. NM Rob Gardner played a very enterprising game and was deservedly awarded with a win over GM Anton Kovalyov. Suddenly we started to seriously contemplate whether Rob could get a norm. The fact of the matter was that even though this was round 5 of the tournament, this was in fact Rob's 6th game. He played his 9th round game right before round 1. FM Richard Wang had bought the tickets to the Canadian Youth Championship prior to the event dates being announced thus he couldn't play that game on the 2nd. To accommodate Richard the organizers agreed to move his last round game. Rob defeated Richard and he now had 4/6 according to the traditional scoring system. All of that meant that Rob only needed 1/3 in his remaining 3 games to obtain an IM norm.. Was this really going to happen to our "Rocket" Rob?



NM Gardner,Robert (2202) - GM Kovalyov,Anton (2619) [E42]

7th Edmonton International Edmonton -

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 c5 6.a3 Ba5 7.Rb1 Na6 8.Bd2 0-0 9.d5 d6 10.Nf4 e5 11.Nh5 Bf5 12.Nxf6+ Qxf6 13.Rc1 Qg6 14.h4 h5 15.Be2 Qxg2 16.Bf3 Qg6 17.Bxh5 Qh7 18.Be2 Bd7 19.f3 f5 20.Kf2 Nc7 21.Qg1 b5 22.b4 cxb4 23.Nxb5 Bxb5 24.cxb5 Bb6 25.Rc6 Rf6 26.Qc1 g6 27.Bxb4 f4 28.Kg2 Qd7 29.exf4 Re8 30.Qc2 Kh7 31.h5 Kg7 32.hxg6 Rxg6+ 33.Qxg6+



Kxg6 34.Rxd6+ Qxd6 35.Bxd6 Nxd5 36.Bd3+ Kg7 37.Bxe5+ Rxe5 38.fxe5 Nf4+ 39.Kg3 Nxd3 40.f4 Kf7 41.Rd1 Nf2 42.Rd7+ Ke8 43.Rb7 Ne4+ 44.Kg4 Nc3 45.f5 Nxb5 46.f6 Nd4 47.e6 Nc6 48.Rh7 Bc5 49.Rc7 1-0

In round 6 no big upsets took place. GM Kovalyov bounced back at FM Haessel's expense, while Rob, probably still elated from his previous round, couldn't bring himself to have two strong showings against GMs in one day, as he succumbed to GM Mikhalevski. GM Short's winning streak was halted by IM Krush as they drew.

As round 7 approached the tournament was lead by GM Mikhalevski. With only one GM remaining it looked like he was very close to at least sharing first. Certainly the lowest rated participant, FM Dale Haessel wasn't going to be much of an obstacle. Well as mentioned earlier, there is no predicting what Dale will do. He played a home prepared line which he transformed into a ferocious attack that ended the contest rather quickly. The 358 point upset was merely the second biggest of the event. GM Short took full advantage of the opportunity after he

defeated FM Wang in an entertaining game where Nigel was on a sacrificing spree. GM Kovalyov wasn't able to catch up as he drew IM Krush after saving a difficult endgame. Rob Gardner knew that he needed 1 win or two draws in his remaining games for the norm. In this round he was facing IM Porper with white. The position seemed fairly quiet and headed for a draw. Of course Rob is not one to simply play for a draw so he pushed his kingside pawns opening up his king but gathering more space. Edward seemed to be in some trouble but managed to defend the position and a draw was agreed. In round 8 the unbelievable has become a reality. Our own "Rocket" Rob Gardner attained his first ever IM norm. His opponent was FM Vladimir Pechenkin. Vlad is typically an inconvenient opponent for Rob and Vlad's position seemed somewhat better out of the opening but not by a big margin. On move 19 Rob decided not to tempt the fate any longer and offered a draw which was promptly accepted. This was in fact the only game in the last 2 Edmonton Internationals which ended in the less than 30 moves, but neither opponent was going for a prize anyway so no penalty was awarded. As a result of this game, National Master Gardner had a very well deserved norm which will hopefully help him progress further in his chess career. Ok there were other events in this round as well. In fact that was the round that saw an encounter between the top two event participants. GM Short seemed to have some winning chances but GM Kovalyov held on for a draw. GM Mikhalevski clearly hasn't recovered from his morning disaster. He obtained a good position against IM Krush with seemingly no losing chances. He had the control of the position and needed to slowly improve it before busting it open. Instead he wasn't patient enough and opened it up too early, which led to quite a few complications and an eventual loss. In round 9 we saw the final GM only contest as Anton Kovalyov took on Victor Mikhalevski. The winner would still have a theoretical chance to finish first, but the game was not too eventful and ended in a 30 move draw. IM Leon Piasetski was not having a very good tournament as he did not win any games. His time in Edmonton was not going to be any easier heading into the last round as he had to deal with GM Short. As Leon told me later, during the game he thought that he had a chance

to dry up the position which would lead to a drawn endgame, but instead he saw an opportunity for an attack which objectively speaking was quite proper. The 60 year old IM thought to himself, how many more opportunities will I have to attack someone like Nigel? He went for it but unfortunately, Short defended well and won the game.

IM Piasetski, Leon (2304) – GM Short, Nigel (2705) [A41]

7th Edmonton International Edmonton - Canada (9)
(IM Leon Piasetski)

Despite my disappointing performance I was looking forward to playing Nigel in the last round. First of all, I had nothing to lose and second, I was curious to see how Nigel would try to take the game into an unfamiliar sideline. As it turned out the opening was well-known to me since I've also played it as Black!

On a side note, I was amused to read Mark Crowther's report on the TWIC website where he wrote "Short blew away Piasetski in Round 9." Perhaps a chauvinistic comment since this game did not look easy for Black. Let's have a look.

1. Nf3 d6 2.d4 Bg4 3.e4 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.h3 Bh5 6.Be3 Be7 7.Be2 a6

I was happy with the way things were going but this move posed an awkward question. Should I prevent b5 with a4 and slightly weaken the queenside or ignore the push? I decided to support e4 ahead of time by playing Nd2 which allows a bishop trade. Theoretically, Black feels less pressure with these pieces off the board but I still have a large center and soon f4 will increase the space advantage.

8.Nd2 Bxe2 9.Qxe2 0-0 10.0-0 Nc6

Once again I could prevent b5 but I wanted to concentrate on development. I felt Black would soon play e5 so I wanted to make it a bit uncomfortable by opposing his queen with my rook on d1. It seemed less likely that Black would play ...d5 since his ...f6 break would then create a weakling on e6 due to the absence of the light-squared bishop. I also considered my d4-d5 and e4-e5 pushes but wanted to bring all the pieces to the party before the action started.

11.Rad1 b5

Here I decided against 12.a3 because I thought ... b4 13.axb4 Nb4 would give Black counterplay. However, in retrospect

allowing ...b4 seems to cause more problems.

12.f4 b4

Here Nigel felt relieved since he considered Na4 necessary to slow down Black's initiative. However, it seemed to me that the pawn on d4 might need protection, and with 13.Na4 Qb8 14.b3 White weakens the c3 square and thus cannot support d4 with another pawn. Of course, the knight on b1 is out of play but I thought I could eventually bring it into action by first creating threats on the king-side that would tie Black down.

13.Ncb1 Qb8 14.g4 Qb5

From this point on Houdini evaluates the position as clearly better for Black which is probably why Crowther assumed Nigel had an easy time. In fact, I think this type of position is more difficult for a computer to assess correctly since White's king-side chances are beyond the horizon, and they can alter the assessment significantly when things open up.

Incidentally, the alternative choice 15.Qg2 also makes sense but I didn't want to allow Nh5 after g5.

15.Qf3 Nd7 16.f5

This was necessary since Black was also planning to play ...f5. In any case it fit in with the theme of gaining space on the king-side. Now Nigel finds an interesting way to slow down my pawn advance.

16...h6!?

This was a bit of a surprise since I assumed moving pawns in front of your king would make it easier to attack. However, Black is trying to relieve the pressure by exchanging pieces and also create a potential escape route for the king with ...f6 and ...Kf7. After ...f6 the dark-squared bishop would be in the way so exchanging it is mandatory.

17.Rf2

Here I should probably move the queen to g2 so that Nf3 is an option. This would make ...Bg5 too dangerous, for instance, 17.Qg2 Bg5 18.Bg5 hxg5 19.Nf3 exf5 20.Ng5! (Not 20.gxf5 f6 21.h4 Rae8 22.hxg5 (22.Nbd2 is better) Re4 23.Qh3 Rfe8 24.g6 because the king escapes to d8 or d6 if necessary) ... fxe4 23.d5 Nce5 24.Qe4 g6 25.Qe1! Kg7 26.Rd4! Qb6 27.Qf2 and Black still has to be careful.

17...Rae8 18.Rg2 Bg5

At this point I felt quite confident but couldn't decide between exchanging bishops or playing 19.Bf2. It seems the latter would have caused more problems



After 21. h4?

since Black still can't initiate queenside pawn munching , i.e. 19. ..Qa4 ?! 20.Nb3! Qa2 21.h4 Bd8 22.g5 and White's attack is looming. Also, 19. ..Bd2 20.Nd2 would help White's problem child, the knight on b1, get back into play.

19.Bxg5 hxg5 20.c3 Nf6 21.h4?

Much too ambitious! I was still dreaming of a king– side attack but White should activate pieces –not pawns—with 22.Rf1 which protects the pawn on f5 and intends 23.Qe3. After 21. h4 Houdini prefers 21...gxh4 22.g5 Nh7 followed by g6 and Ne7 when it seems that White is over–extended on the king–side. Nigel's natural move Nh7 lets White back in the game but I didn't have enough time to decide on the best continuation. After Qh3 or Rh2 chances seem equal.

21...Nh7?! 22.hxg5

Now I had 5 minutes left compared to 35

minutes for my opponent and was not at all confident!

22...Nxf3 23.Qe3 f6 24.fxe6 d5

Even here White is ok if he plays the surprising cxb4 since the problem knight reappears on c3 where it exerts a powerful effect, i.e. 25.cxb4 Re6! (not 25... Qb4 26.exd5) 26.Nc3 Qb4 27.Nd5 Qd4 28.Qd4 Nd4 29.Nc7 Rc6 30.Nd5.

25.c4? dxc4

Perhaps White should play 27.Kh1 since the e6–pawn is taboo (27...Re6 ? 28.d5 Qd5 29.exd5 Re3 30.dxc6) but Black is still much better. Also, I rejected 27.d5 Ne5 because the black knights dominate the board. However, this too might have given more chances to resist. After 26.Nf3 White is lost.

26.Nf3? Nxf3+ 27.Qxf3 Rxe6 28.d5 Ne5

29.Qh3 Qc5+ 30.Kh1 Re7 31.Rf1 Qd4 32.Nd2 c3 33.bxc3 bxc3 34.Rh2 cxd2

Allowing a chance to drive Black's king into the open but after 35.Qh7+ Kf7 36.Rf6+ Ke8 (not 36...Kf6?? 37.Qf5 mate!) 37.Rf8+ Kd7! (not 37...Kf8 38.Qf5+ with a perpetual!) 38.Qf5+ Kd6 39.Rd8+ Kc5 40.Rd2 Qd2 the king escapes and Black wins easily with his extra piece .

35.Qh8+ Kf7 36.Rxf6+ gxf6 37.Qh5+ Ng6

Even though I lost this game I felt it was interesting and instructive. I put Nigel under pressure and had good chances for much of the game. Nigel defended well and exploited the weaknesses in my position, especially when my time trouble

was approaching.

0-1

FM Pechenkin also didn't have a great event, but just like last year his only victory came at the expense of FM Dale Haessel. The last game of the event was in fact the longest of the entire tournament and managed to delay the blitz championship quite a bit. IM Krush was up a piece for a pawn against IM Porper. Normally the win would be simple, but the game went on for 110 moves in an endgame which was later called instructive by the host of "The Week in Chess" Mark Crowther. Speaking of websites, the tournament received quite a bit of online publicity. It was featured in the aforementioned "TWIC," Chessgames.com, 2700chess.com and many more websites. The famous chessbase.com website featured an interesting article about the event. The tournament website received almost 5000 unique visitors, while in a usual month the ACA website only has about 1000! But I digress, despite a tough start GM Short was able to recover and convincingly won the event with 20 points (or 7/9)by the traditional scoring system). Second place went to GM Mikhalevski with 17 points (6/9) and third place was taken by GM Anton Kovalyov with 16 points (6/9). Congratulations, Micah Hughey, Ali Razzaq and the entire organizing team on a great event.

7th Edmonton International:

| # | Name | FED | Rtng | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | Total | Place |
|----|-----------------------|-----|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----------|-------|
| 1 | GM Victor Mikhalevski | ISR | 2519 | X | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 2 |
| 2 | IM Edward Porper | CAN | 2414 | 1 | X | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 5 |
| 3 | FM Vladimir Pechenkin | CAN | 2312 | 0 | 0 | X | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | FM Richard Wang | CAN | 2307 | 0 | 0 | 1 | X | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 7 |
| 5 | IM Leon Piasetski | CAN | 2304 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | X | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| 6 | NM Robert J. Gardner | CAN | 2202 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | X | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 5 |
| 7 | FM Dale Haessel | CAN | 2161 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | X | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| 8 | IM Irina Krush | USA | 2457 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | X | 1 | 1 | 14 | 4 |
| 9 | GM Anton Kovalyov | ARG | 2619 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | X | 1 | 16 | 3 |
| 10 | GM Nigel Short | ENG | 2705 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | X | 20 | 1 |

*3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss

Edmonton International Reserves

By Vlad Rekhson



Following an example of the Calgary International the Reserves section was divided into 2 sections. The tournament was played over 3 days of the Canada Day long weekend in 6 rounds. The same rules that were in effect for the International were applied to the Reserves as well. Draws could not be agreed in less than 30 moves and a 3 point “soccer system” was used. A total of 15 participants entered the “Open” section. Pre-tournament favourites, NMs Nic Haynes and Gary Ng shared first with 12/15 each (4/5 by traditional system). Nic had to recover after a tough start where he defeated the “2300 killer” Mike Zeggelaar. Mike had a great tournament as well. He finished with 10/15 (3.5/5 traditional) and an incredible 175 point CFC rating gain! Jamil Kassam was the surprise winner of the best Junior prize with 9/15 (3/5 traditional). He certainly deserved it as in the last round he defeated the top rated junior, David Miller.

A total of 9 players took part in the u-1700 tournament. In fact this could be called an u-1500 event since no one above that rating took part. Just like in the open, the winner had a tough start. Dennis Situ lost his first game but then went on to win 4 in a row and won with 12 points (4/5 traditional). Kaixin Wang and Richard Roberts tied for second with 10 points (3.5/5 each traditional). Despite two out of the three top three places going to juniors, the best junior prize was awarded as promised. The award went to Lenard Grossman who scored 8 points (3/5 traditional).

I would like to thank you all those who participated and to TD Rick Pedersen for running the event.

GMs take Edmonton International Blitz championship

By Vlad Rekhson

For the first time an International Blitz championship was held. The tournament took place right after the final round of the other events and in fact had to be delayed due to the very long last round International game. 16 players took part in the event. Despite undergoing a tough 9 round competition, 4 International participants also entered the blitz tournament including GMs Kovalyov and Mikhalevski. The five double rounds event was quite a lot of fun for everyone and not surprisingly was won by the two GMs with 8.5/10 each. Interestingly enough, GM Kovalyov was unable to escape unscathed against NM Rob Gardner as they split the two games. I was able to take third with 7/10. It was definitely quite a successful event for me to finish behind the two G’s but truth be told I had a bit of help from the Swissys program which only paired me against one of the GMs unlike some of my competitors. NM Nic Haynes finished fourth with 6.5/10. Best under 2100 went to Willy Majaducon who scored 5.5/10. Best under 1900 was won by Ron Erikson with 4/10.

Rekhson, Vladislav (2141) - GM Mikhalevski, Victor (2519) [C77]

7th Edm. International Blitz, 02.07.2012

[Vlad Rekhson]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.d3 d6 5.Nbd2 g6 6.c3 Bg7 7.Nf1 0-0 8.Ng3 a6 9.Ba4 Nd7 10.h4 h5 11.Ng5 Nc5 12.Bc2 Ne6 13.Nxh5!?



gxf5 14.Qxh5 Nxf5 15.hxg5 Re8 16.Be3 Be6 17.0-0-0 Ne7 18.Qh7+ Kf8 19.f4 exf4 20.Bd4?

[After 20.Bxf4 the following unforced variation was suggested best for both sides by Houdini: 20...d5 21.Rdf1 dxe4 22.Be5 Bxe5 23.Qh6+ Kg8 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Qh6+ And draw by repetition]

20...Bxd4 21.cxd4 Ng6 22.Rh6 Qxg5 23.Rh5 Qg3 24.d5 Bd7 25.d4 Ke7 26.Qh6 Rh8 0-1

7th Edmonton International Blitz Standings

| # | Name | Rtng | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Tot |
|----|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | Anton Kovalyov | 2651 | WW9 | WL5 | WW4 | DW2 | WW7 | 8.5 |
| 2 | Victor Mikhalevski | 2625 | WW16 | WW7 | WW3 | DL1 | WW5 | 8.5 |
| 3 | Vladislav Rekhson | 2141 | WW14 | WW8 | LL2 | DD4 | WW11 | 7.0 |
| 4 | Nicolas Haynes | 2315 | WD12 | WW11 | LL1 | WL3 | WW8 | 6.5 |
| 5 | Robert J Gardner | 2275 | WW6 | WL1 | WD8 | WL7 | LL2 | 5.5 |
| 6 | Willy Majaducon | 1818 | LL5 | WD9 | WL15 | WD12 | WD14 | 5.5 |
| 7 | Gary Ng | 2219 | WW15 | LL2 | WW10 | WL5 | LL1 | 5.0 |
| 8 | Dale Haessel | 2280 | WW13 | LL3 | DL5 | WW9 | LL4 | 4.5 |
| 9 | David Miller | 2092 | LL1 | DL6 | WW12 | LL8 | WW10 | 4.5 |
| 10 | Joseph Young | unr. | DD11 | WL% | LL7 | WW13 | LL9 | 4.0 |
| 11 | Micah Hughey | 2107 | DD10 | LL4 | WL13 | WW16 | LL3 | 4.0 |
| 12 | Sardul Purewal | 1947 | DL4 | WL10 | LL9 | DL6 | WW15 | 4.0 |
| 13 | Ron Erikson | 1886 | LL8 | WL14 | WL11 | LL10 | WW16 | 4.0 |
| 14 | Jafar Faraji | 1697 | LL3 | WL13 | WL16 | WL15 | DL6 | 3.5 |
| 15 | Kevin Smith | 1801 | LL7 | WL16 | WL6 | WL14 | LL12 | 3.0 |
| 16 | Rick Pedersen | 2022 | LL2 | WL15 | WL14 | LL11 | LL13 | 2.0 |



2012 Calgary International Chess Classic

By Vlad Rekhson

The annual International event in Calgary is quickly becoming a staple of the Alberta chess scene. The 5th edition of the event was played in a Swiss system format with 9 rounds and allowed for GM and IM norm opportunities.

For the first time in its history the event was not held in the Calgary Chess Club and instead it was held at the Ramada Hotel downtown location, which allowed the participants to enjoy the core of the city. An additional innovation was the fact that unlike previous event editions, this one was held over 7 days instead of 5. As a result, the players had the opportunity to enjoy a more leisurely atmosphere and had more time to prepare for their games. Both of those innovations, required additional funding since holding the tournament in a very nice hotel conference room and over an extended period of time isn't cheap. Fortunately, the city of Calgary Arts foundation and Tourism Calgary stepped in and provided us with an event enhancement grant which made it possible. Besides the International events, the chess festival included a Reserves section, an under 1200 reserves, a very strong blitz tournament and a lecture by Larry Kaufman.

But now lets start from the beginning. The first round was scheduled to start at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 14th. The late start time allowed for a nice tradition to continue whereby many of the out of town participants are taken for sightseeing at the beautiful Banff National Park. Unlike last year, the weather was fantastic and the spectators had a great chance to enjoy the full beauty of Alberta's best.

And then it was time to play some chess. The tournament this year had a relatively small field of 18 players but it was very strong. A total of 5 GMs and 3 IMs took part in the event. The pre-tournament



favourite was Argentinean (and soon to be Canadian) GM Anton Kovalyov, who in fact was a last minute addition to the event, as a Serbian GM dropped out with only one week to go. Other pre-tournament favourites included the 4 time US champion-GM Alexander Shabalov and Israeli GM and the winner of the 3rd Calgary International-GM Victor Mikhalevski.

First round often includes some blowouts, but this wasn't the case this time around. In fact both of the top boards were struggling against their Alberta opponents. GM Kovalyov was in trouble against FM Richard Wang while GM Shabalov was struggling against NM Alex Yam. Just as it looked like we may see some huge upsets, the GMs turned the tables around and managed to outplay their opponents. While the GMs on the top two boards were struggling, the match between NM Rob Gardner and GM Victor Mikhalevski progressed in a calmer pace and that was in fact the only upset of the round as "Rocket" Rob drew the GM.

GM Kovalyov, Anton (2619) – FM Wang, Richard (2307) [A37]
[IM Day, Lawrence]

1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.g3

White is content with a battle for squares in a positional struggle distinguished by colour complexes: White's strength on the light squares; Black's on the dark. From Black's point of view his structure is a Benoni with no cramping pawn at d5--how bad could that be? But nowadays the reversed Maroczy Bind theory has been elaborated well into the middlegame with a current estimation that Black trends to equality. Hence breaking the bind at once with the line 4.e3 Nf6 5.d4 has become the popular frontier.

4...g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.a3 Nge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 d6 9.Rb1 a5 10.Ne1 Be6 11.Nc2 d5
Correct timing as otherwise White will take control of the d5-square by Nc2-e3 gaining a clear advantage.
12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Ne3

[Certainly better than the old 13.Ne4 b6 14.Ng5 Bc8 15.Ne3 when Black keeps the pieces on with 15...Nde7 and stands slightly better as in Benko-Schmid Monte Carlo 1969. In Canadian praxis attempts to improve this Nc3-e4-g5 plan by inserting Bd2 for White and ...Rb8 for Black were unsuccessful in both Suttles-Jamieson, Nice, 1974, and Noritsyn-Moiseenko, Ottawa, 2008. So Kovalyov is showing us something new!]

13...Nde7 14.Nc4 Rb8 15.Bg5 Having avoided Bc1-d2 earlier allows this small finesse which weakens Black's coverage of the e6 light square as well as obstructing his fianchetto.

15...f6 16.Be3 b6 [It might be more logical to delay deciding where this pawn belongs. 16...Nd4 was more flexible letting White figure out whether ...b5 is threatened. Anastasian-Zhou Jianchao, Aeroflot, 2007, went 17.f4?! b5 18.Nd2 f5! 19.Rc1 a4 etc..., 0-1, 38. More likely; 16...Nd4 would be answered with 17.Bxd4 exd4 18.Nb5 Nd5 gives balanced chances.; Also 16...b5!? is possible at once, but White might be glad to see it since after 17.Nd2 Nd4 he could eschew f2-f4 and instead contest the light squares with 18.a4! when the sharp line 18...bxa4 19.Nxa4 Nd5 20.Nxc5 Nxe3 21.fxe3 Bh6 22.Nxe6 Bxe3+ 23.Kh1 Nxe6 24.Nc4 is a bit better for White.]

17.f4!?

[The safe 17.Qa4 Qc7 18.Rfc1 Kh8 19.Qd1 Qd8 was agreed drawn in Ruck-Huzman, Istanbul, 2000.]

17...Nd5

[Better than 17...Qd7 18.fxe5 Nxe5 19.Bf4 with some pull in a complex game.; Houdini observes 17...b5 18.Nd2 exf4 19.Bxf4 Ne5 20.a4 bxa4 21.Qxa4 Rb4 22.Qa3 f5 23.Be3 Qc7 24.Bf4 Qd8 25.Be3 with a 0.00 pendulum.] **18.f5!?**

[Objectively this may be incorrect but it creates a struggle and is intentional so I can hardly punctuate it as dubious. On 18.Bd2 f5 neutralizes the light square pressure.; Also if 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 19.fxe5 Black can patiently play ... 19...f5 before recovering the pawn.]

18...gxf5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Bxd5+ Qxd5 21.Rxf5 Ne7

[Modest compared to 21...Qe6 22.Qf1 (22.Rf2 f5 when Black need not fear 23.Nxb6 which leaves him slightly better.) 22...e4!]

22.Rf2 Qe6 23.Qb3

23.Qc2 was safer however now 24.Nxa5 is a direct threat.

23...Nd5

The counter-threat is ...Nxe3 winning a piece.

24.Bd2 a4 25.Qb5

Risky but consistent. 25.Qc2 was still possible.

25...f5! 26.Rbf1 f4!

Black's dark square domination is becoming dangerous and White must be very careful. On 27. Bc1 to allow Nc4-d2 Black has 27...Nc7 28.Qxa4 b5 with good winning chances.

27.e4! Nc7 28.Qxa4 b5 29.Qa7 Na6



After 29...Na6

Now the Knight cannot escape since 30. Na5? Rf7 traps the Queen. Hence White takes as many pawns as he can get.

30.Nxe5 Bxe5 31.Bxf4 Ra8??

[This critical blunder costs the game at once. Correct was 31...Bd4 32.Bxb8 Nxb8 when White has nothing better than 33.Kg2 Bxf2 34.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 35.Kxf2 with a likely draw whether Black exchanges Queens with 35...Qf7+ 36.Qxf7+ Kxf7 or keeps them on and lets White aim for perpetual check.]

32.Bxe5 Qxe5 33.Rxf8+ Rxf8 34.Rxf8+ Kxf8 35.Qxa6 Qd4+ 36.Kh1 Qxd3 37.Qf6+ Kg8 38.Qg5+ Kf7 39.Qd5+ Qxd5 40.exd5 Kf6

White could resign here with no risk.

41.Kg2 Ke5 42.g4 Kxd5 43.h4 Kc4 44.g5 Kb3 45.h5 Kxb2 46.g6 hxc6 47.h6 Kxa3 48.h7 b4 49.h8Q c4 50.Qa8+ Kb3 51.Kf3 Kc2 52.Qa2+ 1-0

Round 2 began with some glitches. First, there was an issue with the website and games upload but then an even bigger problem occurred. A very loud lecture began next door. It was so loud that playing normally was almost impossible. The hotel management was not too helpful to resolve the matter; however, after talking to the group, they agreed to move into our skittles room which was further away. Luckily, this resolved the issue and chess could still be played. On board one

IM Edward Porper had a good position against GM Kovalyov but the GM once again managed to turn the tables and win the game. GM Shabalov defeated the veteran GM Larry Kaufman in the first GM encounter of the tournament. FM Wang kept his IM hopes alive as he drew against his former coach, GM Mikhalevski, while FM Pechenkin was able to obtain the same result against a Chicago GM, Dmitry Gurevich. It appeared that Vlad was better or even winning but GM Gurevich defended quite well to secure the half point. The last game to finish in this round was IM Ray Kaufman against the local IM, Eric Hansen. Eric had some advantage but he let it slip away and later lost the game. At this point Eric unfortunately decided to withdraw from the tournament as he simply couldn't concentrate on chess in a serious tournament after just finishing his university exams.

Round 3 featured a match between the tournament's top two ranked players as GM Anton Kovalyov took on GM Alexander Shabalov. The game ended in a draw but it looked like Anton could have played on and tried to win the odd material balance position where he had a Queen and two Bishops against 'Shabba's' two rooks and a bishop.

FM Pechenkin had a clear victory against IM Ray Kaufman on his march towards the IM norm. IM Edward Porper suffered the second defeat of the day, this time from GM Larry Kaufman. This effectively ended Edward's GM norm chances. It was quite a difficult game for Edward to play, since he entered the tournament room thinking that he was going to play FM Wang. The pairings had to be changed after IM Hansen withdrew, but Edward was unaware of the change. Perhaps that affected Edward more than it should have as he went down a piece fairly early. GM Mikhalevski shook off the rusty start and nicely outplayed GM Gurevich.

Mikhalevski, Victor (2519) - Gurevich, Dmitry (2471)

[E06]

2012 Calgary International
[GM Mikhalevski, Victor]

This is the third round game, which I played after two draws in the first two rounds, not the start I was expecting. So, I was really motivated to improve my tournament situation

1.c4 e6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.d4

White transposes to the Catalan.

4...Be7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Qc2

A side line. The idea was to surprise my opponent, yet

Dmitry proved to be well-prepared. 6.0-0 is by far the main line.

6...c5

The most principled way to exploit 6.Qc2.

7.0-0 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nc6

This way Black provokes a knight trade and thus strengthens the centre.

9.Nxc6 bxc6

Now the position starts to resemble the English with the reversed colours or the reversed Gruenfeld.

10.b3

Before developing the knight to c3 I wanted to protect my c4-pawn.

10...a5

Gurevich is trying to exploit b3 by means of ...a4 and it might be also useful to play a5 before developing the bishop to a6.

11.Nc3 Ba6 12.Rd1 Qc7

It's not easy to find a good square for the queen. Black tried different moves instead, but the text is still the main line, even though the queen may get under attack of the dark-squared bishop or I can use her hanging position after Na4 by means of cxd5.

13.Na4

The best square for the knight, since the c5-square is weak and I also protect the c4-pawn this way.

13...dxc4 14.bxc4 Rab8

The rook is going to b4 in order to provoke some weakening of the light squares after White plays c5. So

15.a3

This move turned out to be a novelty, but a pretty logical one. In most of the previous games White prevented Rb4 by means of 15.Bd2. You can find an important example below. 15.Bd2 e5 16.Rab1 Rxb1 17.Rxb1 Nd7 18.Qe4 Nf6 19.Qc2 Nd7 20.Bc3 Bxc4 21.Bxa5 Qxa5 22.Qxc4 Rb8 23.Rd1 Nc5 24.Nxc5 Bxc5 25.e3 Qb5 26.Qxb5 cxb5 27.Rd5 Rc8 28.Rxe5± White won a pawn, but couldn't win the game. However I think Black's play can be improved.

Gulko, B (2610)–Hjartarson, J (2615)/ Linares 1989.

15...h6 16.Bf4

A good provocative move. I've anticipated the game continuation and was ready for it.

16...e5 17.Be3 Ng4 18.Bd2 18...f5?

This is exactly the move I wanted to provoke. Black should have played the



After 18. Bd2

natural 18...Rfd8 which seems to lead to equality after both 19.Rdb1 (and 19.h3!/? Nf6 20.Be3 Another temporary pawn sacrifice, though White has to fight for the d-file. 20...Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Bxa3 22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.Bxc5 Rd8 24.Rb1 Rb8 25.Nf6 22.Rb6 Bxc4 23.Rxc6 Qd7 24.Bxa5 Qd1+ 25.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 26.Kh2 looks roughly equal.

19.h3 Nf6 20.Qxf5

Some of those Canadians are clearly underrated! The f5-pawn is much more important than the c4-pawn as by taking the f5-pawn White creates a lot of weaknesses in the black's camp, including weakness of the light squares.

20...Bxc4 21.Rdc1!

An important move, which was probably missed or underestimated by Black.

21...Bb3

Probably 21...Bxe2 is lesser of the evils as this way Black exchanges his weak c6-pawn. Anyway after 22.Qe6+ Kh8 23.Bxc6! Bd3 24.Be3!± White's chances are higher thanks to the weak e5-pawn and better placed pieces.

22.Nc5! Bxc5 23.Rxc5 Qd6

It's important that tactics works in White's favour. 23...Nd7 24.Rxc6! An important intermediate move. 24...Qa7 25.Be3!± White keeps an extra pawn and his advantage is huge.]

24.Be3 Nd5

Once again 24...Nd7 is met by 25.Rxc6!±

25.Qd3!±

Pinning the knight..White has saved his darks-squared bishop from an exchange and now enjoys a clear positional advantage due to the weakness of the c6 and e5-pawns and the misplaced bishop on b3.

25...a4

Supporting the bishop.

26.Rac1 Rbc8 27.Bd2!±

White's advantage is growing. It's not easy for Black to protect his weaknesses.

27...Qe6 28.Be1!/? Ne7 29.Qe4

Targeting all three weak pawns and transferring the queen to h5, which I considered to be a nice square.

Another good way to proceed would have been 29.e4!/?± Taking away the d5-square and thus restricting the knight.

29...Nd5 30.Qg4

Offering a favourable queen exchange as after Qxg4 it will be very difficult to protect the weak pawns.

30...Qd6 31.Qh5

White creates a threat of e4. Nevertheless this move is a slight inaccuracy, which yields Black a chance. 31.h4! was better preparing to fix the kingside pawns by means of h5.

31...Rfe8?

Black blunders. 31...e4! was a good practical chance to create a counter-play. Now after 32.Bxe4 Nf6 33.Qe5 Nxe4 34.Qxe4 Rce8 35.Qxc6 Qxc6 36.Rxc6 Rxe2 Black obtains some compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

32.Rxc6!+—

Now it's all over. The rook on e8 is being attacked by my queen.

32...Nf6 33.Rxc8 Nxe5 34.Rxe8+ Kf7**35.Bb4!**

Another important intermediate move, which finishes the game. The a3-pawn is protected and White obtains a decisive material advantage.

35...Qd4 36.Re7+

Black's king is also under attack.

36...Kg6 37.e3

37.e3 Black resigned in view of 37...Qb2 38.Be4+ Kg5 39.Rxg7+! Nxg7 40.Be7+ Kh5 41.g4# A beautiful mating construction! This was undoubtedly my best game in Calgary International 2012.

1-0

In round 4, FM Pechenkin continued his solid and strong play as he drew against GM Kovalyov. In yet another GM match-up, GM Shabalov outplayed GM Mikhalevski. IM Porper was starting his road to recovery as he outplayed FM Dale Haessel. We had a father-son pairing today as GM Larry Kaufman was paired against his son, Ray. Unfortunately, with a small field this pairing was almost unavoidable. The two didn't want to test each other out as they agreed to an early draw.

IM Porper, Edward (2414) – FM

Haessel, Dale (2161) [A45]

2012 Calgary International Calgary, [GM Spraggett, Kevin]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 e6 3.e4 h6 4.Bxf6 Qxf6 5.c3

A modest opening choice where White gives up the Bishop pair in return for an easy development and fast occupation of the centre.

5...d6

[5...d5 !? Deserves consideration. 6.e5 Qd8 and the game has 'French' characteristics]

6.Nd2 Nd7 7.Bd3 g6

A sound development

8.Ne2 Bg7 9.0-0 b6

Normally Black drops back with the Queen to e7 first, but it appears to make little difference

10.f4 Bb7 11.Qa4 !?

[11.a4 !?]

11...a6 12.Kh1 Qe7

White is waiting for Black to castle before deciding on major decisions. This type of position is known for its "cat and mouse" play

... 13.e5 !? White is a bit better--more space and coordination, but Black has dynamic chances. I think this is the type of position where the better player usually comes out on top.

13...dxe5

Playing with fire! Castling short makes more sense. [13...d5 14.c4 !; 13...Rb8 is a good waiting move; 13...0-0 !]

14.fxe5 Bxe2+ ??

Again castling was indicated. Dale probably thought that his opponent had overlooked this win of a pawn, but in fact the pawn is poison and he will pay a heavy price for taking it.

15.Kxg2 Qg5+ 16.Kh1 Qxd2

Optically, with the Queen attacking the Bishop on d3, as well as the pawn on b2, it appears that Black is doing ok. 17.Qc6 !

Most precise! [17.Rxf7 ? 17...b5 !]

17...Rd8

The only move to keep pieces even. [17...Rc8 ? 18.Rxf7 !; 17...0-0 ? 18.Rad1 ! 18...Qxb2 19.Qxd7 and White is a piece up]

18.Bxg6 !

A very strong and pretty move. My only criticism is that there is better! [18.Rxf7 !! While it was difficult to calculate at the board, the fastest way to win is the Rook sacrifice: 18...Kxf7 19.Rf1+ Ke7 (19...Bf6 20.Nf4 Nf8 21.Bxg6+; 19...Nf6 20.exf6 Bf8 21.Qxc7+) 20.d5 !! Beautiful! Makes way



After 18. Bxg6!

the Knight to get into play. 20...exd5 (20...Nf8 21.Qxc7+ Rd7 22.d6+ Ke8 23.Qc8+ Rd8 24.Bxg6+ Nxc6 25.Qxe6+ Ne7 26.Qxe7#) 21.Nd4 ! 21...Nc5 22.Qxg6 and Black can resign]

18...0-0

The only move!

19.Bh5 !

White defends his pieces! Notice that Black is exposed along the open g-file. This gives White a strategically won game, which Porper exploits with precision.

19...Qxb2

At this point it makes little difference what Black plays, so he might as well enjoy some fruit...[19...Qg5 20.Qf3 Kh8 21.Rg1]

20.Rg1 Qc2 21.Rg2 ! 21...Qf5 22.Rag1

Black is completely helpless and can only mark time while White brings in his pieces, readying the decisive blow.

22...Qxh5 23.Rxg7+ Kh8 24.Qe4 !

White alternates between mate threats and re-organizing his Knight

24...Qf5 25.Qe3 Qh5 26.Nf4 Qf5

[26...Qh4 27.Qe4 !]

27.Nd5 !

Porper plays very strongly, though it has to be admitted his task is quite enjoyable!

27...Qh5

There is no rest for this piece, but at least it has had a feast earlier!

28.Ne7

The mating net is complete! Now the Black Queen is deprived the f5-square and White will put his Queen on g3, threatening Rh7 and mate next move. [28.Qg3 Qf5 ! 29.Qe3 Is the same thing, only slower]

28...f5 29.Qg3 It is forced mate **1-0**

In round 5, FM Pechenkin was once again on board one, this time against GM Alexander Shabalov. Once again Vlad proved how tough he is to defeat as he held yet another GM for a draw. GM Anton

Kovalyov was once again able to turn the tables around on a bad position. He made an uncharacteristic exchange blunder early, but from that point on he played quite well and used GM Kaufman's mistakes to take over the game and win. GM Gurevich positionally outplayed Ray Kaufman. Friends and tournament roommates, GM Mikhalevski and IM Porper were having a pretty bad tournament thus far, and the game between them was not a short draw but eventually it petered out to one. A special mention also has to be given to NM Rob Gardner who up to this point was having a good event. In round 5 he defeated Kim Nguyen and had 3/5.

From round 6 on the games were going to be at one game per day. The first game to finish in this round was quite surprising. Normally, IM Porper's win over FM Pechenkin with white, would not surprise anyone, but after a string of draws against GMs, Vlad losing to Edward felt like an upset. Edward wasn't sure what to open with but an advice from GM Victor Mikhalevski got him to try out 1. b3! The surprise worked well as Edward achieved a convincing win. On board one, GMs Gurevich and Kovalyov had a pretty uneventful draw, which allowed GM Shabalov to surpass Anton to take the sole lead after his victory over NM Gardner. IM Wang was slowly starting to pick up pace as he defeated IM Ray Kaufman. The last game to finish was GM Kaufman-GM Mikhalevski encounter. Once again in this tournament GM Kaufman received a very good position early on but was later outplayed by GM Mikhalevski in a pretty interesting endgame.

NM Gardner, Robert (2202) – GM Shabalov, Alexander (2534) [E25]
2012 Calgary International Calgary, [GM Fedorowicz, John]

1.d4

Alex Shabalov has been one of the top players in the USA for about 20 years now. He has won 4 US Championships and come close several other times. I've played Alex around 40 times with many of the games being tactical slugouts! Shabalov's style can be best described as "crowd pleasing". He's a very good maniac!

1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3!?

I guess this move and 4. a3 should be called the Saemisch Variation. I remember Rob playing this a couple of years ago. [4.Qc2!/? these solid variations are the ones that give black troubles]

4...d5

The most logical reply, putting an end to white's e4 hopes [4...c5!/? is a very tactical try 5.d5 b5 6.e4 bxc4 7.Bxc4 Nxd5 8.Bxd5 exd5 9.Qxd5 Nc6 10.Nge2 Ba6 11.Kf2 0-0 12.Rd1 white has avoided some tactics and is slightly better]

5.a3 Bxc3+

[5...Be7!/? 6.e4 dxe4 7.fxe4 e5 8.d5 Bc5 is a more aggressive treatment vs. this setup]

6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 c4!/?

When black locks it the counterplay must happen before white gets in e4

9.Ne2 Nc6 10.g4!/?

[10.Ng3 h5!/? stopping e4 once again is the way black must handle this position]

10...0-0 11.Bg2!/?

[11.Ng3 Na5 12.Bg2 Nb3 13.Ra2 b5 14.g5 Nd7 15.e4 Nb6 16.0-0 Na4 17.Rc2 Qa5 18.Bd2 Black's Bc8 can't cause trouble like it did in the game]

11...Na5 12.0-0 Nb3 13.Ra2 b5 14.g5 Nd7 15.e4 Nb6 16.e5

[16.Ng3!/? If white plays this then e5, black's Bc8 can't find it's way to the h7-b1 diagonal 16...Na4 17.Qc2 Qa5 18.Bb2 looks weird, but the position is equal]

16...Bf5 17.f4!/?

to me this is where things seem to go horribly wrong for white [17.Be3 Na4 18.f4 Qa5 19.Qe1 Bd3 20.f5 Bxe2 21.Rxe2 Nxc3 (21...Qxc3 22.Qh4 Qd3 23.Ree1 White's queenside is gone, but things are far from clear. White's f6 ideas look very troublesome) 22.Rc2 Ne4 23.Qxa5 Nxa5 Is better for black, but white has fighting chances]

17...Na4 18.Rf3 Bb1!



After 18... Bb1!

winning the exchange at black's leisure and completely discombobulating white's forces

19.Rc2 a5 20.Rh3 b4 21.Be3 Bxc2 22.Qxc2 g6 23.axb4 axb4 24.cxb4 Nb6 25.f5

White tries to get an attack going but

black's activity proves too much

25...Qd7 26.Ng3 Ra1+ 27.Bf1 Nc8 28.Rh6 Ne7 29.Qg2 Nxf5 30.Qh3 Rfa8!

Running to e7 ends any hope for the attack to go through

31.Rxh7 Kf8 32.Ne2 Nxe3

Wrapping up the point with a forced sequence.

33.Qxe3 Qg4+ 34.Ng3 R8a2 35.e6 Rxf1+ 36.Kxf1 Qd1+ 37.Qe1 Qf3+

It's not clear where white went wrong, but the entire variation seems suspicious to me. **0-1**

In round 7, the top two boards were completely occupied by GMs.

Unfortunately, big battles did not take place as GM Shabalov and Gurevich agreed to a very quick draw. On board 2, Anton Kovalyov couldn't get much from the Gruenfeld against Victor Mikhalevski and the game quickly entered a drawn endgame. On board 3 FM Pechenkin recovered from yesterday's loss as he defeated NM Gardner after the two entered a very long line which Vlad prepared at home. FM Wang was pushing hard against IM Porper. Richard declined a draw offer, won a pawn but it wasn't quite enough for a win and the game ended in a draw.

By round 8 GM Kovalyov played all the top players, thus he was now facing the much lower rated Calgary champ, Kim Nguyen. Kim gave the GM a tough game and Anton had to work quite hard in an endgame to secure the win. IM Edward Porper was playing much better than at the beginning of the tournament. In this round he upset the tournament leader, GM Alexander Shabalov. FM Pechenkin drew yet another GM. This time it was against GM Mikhalevski.

Going into the final round, the pairings provided for some mismatches as the top players had all played each other. GM Anton Kovalyov had the sole lead and it looked like he would be able to take it all, as he was facing a much lower rated, IM Ray Kaufman. Ray proved to be a hard nut to crack. Anton wasn't able to break through and the game ended in a draw. This allowed GM Dmitry Gurevich to catch him as he defeated NM Rob Gardner. GM Shabalov was favoured to catch up to the leaders as well, but he wasn't able to outplay FM Wang and shared third with IM Porper who defeated David Miller. Unfortunately, David came to this event quite sick and thus wasn't

able to show his best chess. FM Vladimir Pechenkin came into this round knowing that he needed a draw with white against GM Larry Kaufman for an IM norm.

Considering the fact that neither one of them would win a prize with a victory, and the fact that Larry is only slightly higher rated than Vlad, a quick draw was an expected result. Nevertheless, such a draw was not pre-arranged and both opponents came to the game prepared for a battle. This wasn't to be as a draw was agreed very early on. The draw allowed FM Vladimir Pechenkin to earn his first ever IM norm with a great result of 5.5/9 in the tournament. Congratulations Vlad! The tournament ended with a fun after party at Tony Ficzer's house. See you again next year.

Pechenkin, Vladimir (2312) - Miller, David (2049) [A26]

Fifth Calgary International Calgary (1), [FM Pechenkin, Vladimir]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.d3

This system of development usually leads to slow positional play, which was ideal for me in the first round of the tournament. [5.d4 is a more ambitious continuation with a likely transposition to the King's Indian or Benoni.]

5...d6 6.e4 e5 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.0-0 Nh5 9.Nd5 f5 10.Be3

In most cases, this move must be prepared with h2-h3 preventing an annoying Nf6-g4. However, since the black knight is no longer on f6, White can develop the bishop without spending time on prophylaxis.

10...Ne7?!

This is a common idea in the system. In this particular position, however, it allows White to achieve his strategic goals at almost no cost. [10...f4 is a logical continuation justifying Black's previous play. After 11.gxf4 exf4 12.Nexf4 Nxf4 13.Bxf4 Bxb2 14.Rb1 a complex struggle lies ahead.]

11.Bg5!

No prejudices. White moves the same pieces again taking into account concrete features of the position. **11...Nf6** This retreat is pretty much forced.

12.Qd2

It was tempting to establish control of the important c1-h6 diagonal and connect the rooks at the same time. [Nevertheless, 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nxf6+ Rxf6 14.d4+= is the simplest and best solution. White

threatens to take on e5 exploiting a temporary lack of coordination among the black pieces.]

12...c6 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bxf6 Rxf6 15.Rad1

A slight inaccuracy giving Black extra options. [15.d4 is again the right continuation although now Black has a good square for the queen 15...Qc7 Nevertheless, Black still has some problems to solve after 16.Rad1+=]

15...Qf8

Black wants to take advantage of White's inaccurate move order. [15...Qc7 16.d4 transposes to the line above] **16.exf5**

Since f5-f4 has become a real threat, White should release the tension.

16...Nxf5

The most logical recapture. [After 16...gxf5 White's standard reaction is 17.f4 intending a timely trade on e5 followed by d3-d4. A possible continuation is 17...Ng6 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.d4 e4 20.d5+=; 16...Bxf5 17.d4+= leaves Black with a somewhat passive knight on e7]

17.d4

Better late than never.

17...Nxd4 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.Qxd4+=

Notwithstanding a couple of inaccuracies, White has attained a desirable position. He has no pawn weaknesses and his king is safer. In general, his plan would be to combine threats against the d6-pawn and the black king, according to the principle of two weaknesses.

19...Be6 20.b3 Qf7

For now, Black defends his d6-pawn by tactical means intending to complete development. A key question for White at this stage is how to place his rooks to maximize their efficiency.

21.Rd2 a6

Played with a clear intention to free the a8-rook and relocate it to a more useful square. [A more active 21...a5!? deserves attention, asking White a question what he is going to do about a5-a4. The most radical solution is 22.a4 Then, White will try to prove that the a5-pawn is a weakness. However, his queenside pawn structure becomes a little suspicious.]

22.h3?!

I spent a lot of time here but couldn't decide on a way to deploy my rooks. [The most logical continuation would have been 22.Re1 Rf8 23.f4+= The pawn on f4 makes the whole black battery of heavy pieces look a little silly. It is also important to move the f1-rook elsewhere to avoid any g6-g5 tricks.]

22...Rd8

Black signals his intention to play for a d6-d5 break in the center. White should react.

23.Qb6 Rd7 24.Rfd1

The idea of 22.h3 is now revealed: Black cannot play the annoying Bg4. By doubling the rooks White wants to discourage Black from the central push but Black isn't going to comply.

24...d5! 25.cxd5 Bxd5

correctly trading the bishops as well

26.Bxd5 cxd5 27.Qe3

Black has improved his position in the last 5 moves. White has to block the d5-pawn and try to create some threats against the enemy king.

27...Re6 28.Qg5 Red6

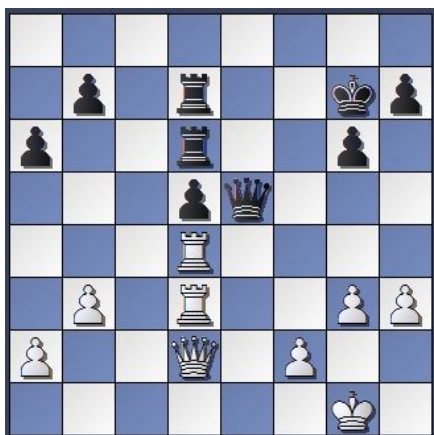
Safe but a little passive. [28...Qe8!? creating threats against the white king looks very good]

29.Rd4 Kg7 30.R1d3

This move is inspired by Spassky's two-dimensional rooks seen, for example, in Spassky-Fischer, 1960. Here, the idea is to keep the d5-pawn under observation, while also maintaining an option of swinging one or both rooks to the kingside.

30...Qf6 31.Qd2

White must avoid a trade of queens to keep his winning hopes alive. With his last move he creates a battery of heavy pieces sometimes referred to in the literature as Alekhine's gun. The devastating impact of such a battering ram in the games Alekhine - Nimzowitsch, 1930, and Winter - Alekhine, 1936, was indeed remarkable to merit such a comparison. In this position, however, it looks more like a toy than a real weapon.

31...Qe5

After 31...Qe5

A clear demonstration of why one weakness is not enough to win the game, since there are as many defenders of the

weakness as there are attackers.

32.Kg2

The time control was approaching, and I was tempted to play a few useful but noncommittal moves to cruise through the time pressure. [White must initiate some action on the kingside to make a second weakness more pronounced, and 32.h4!? is the most natural way to proceed. Here, 32...h5? suddenly fails to 33.Re3 Qf6 34.Rf4+- with a decisive invasion in all lines]

32...Qf6

Black is playing Anand style, casually setting up small tactical traps.

33.Rf3

[33.Rxd5?? Rxd5 34.Rxd5 Qc6 and White has to resign]

33...Qd8

Black is toying with his own Alekhine's gun.

34.Rh4

Not a bad try. That's why this square was left free a couple of moves earlier.

34...h5

Correct. [34...d4?? 35.Qh6+ Kg8 36.Rhf4 Rg7 37.Rf8+ Qxf8 38.Rxf8+ Kxf8 39.Qf4+ Ke7 40.Qe5+ is the idea behind White's last although, honestly, I don't remember whether I was able to calculate the whole line until the end during the game.]

35.Qd4+

Despite the fact that I was taking too much action before move 40, contrary to my initial intention, this regrouping felt right to me during the game. At the same time, I understood the risk it entailed. [35.Rd4 would have been a good practical decision. White should play a few more noncommittal moves to reach the time control, then think about the position more carefully.]

35...Kh7 36.Rhf4

The point of White's previous. However, the mate threat is too obvious to overlook.

36...Qe7 37.Rf8

Sticking to the plan. [I was tempted to play 37.g4!? but it seemed to me that the time for such drastic measures hadn't come yet. In this case, the safety of my own king might have become an issue.]

37...Qg7

The only but sufficient way to prevent mate on h8. At the same time, the risk associated with 35. Qd4 now becomes real: White has to lift the blockade.

38.Qd3

Every schoolboy knows that the queen is a terrible blocker for this very reason: it can

be easily dislodged.

38...d4

Black immediately seizes his chance to push his allegedly weak pawn turning it into a strength.

39.R3f4

[39.g4!? was again on the agenda.]

39...Rc6 40.Qf3

White completes the intended regrouping. This version of the Alekhine's gun looks way more dangerous.

40...Rc3 41.Qe4

There is hardly any way back now.

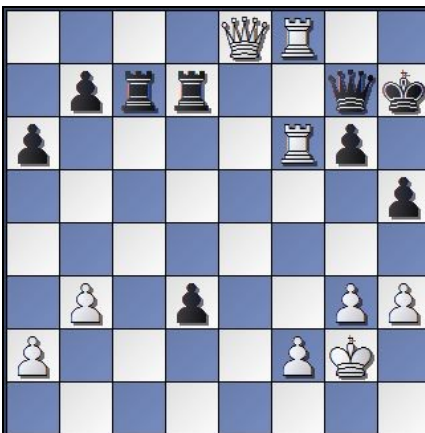
41...d3?

This natural move happens to be a decisive mistake. [41...Rcc7 is the toughest defence forcing White to come up with something very quickly: 42.g4!? It is time for desperate measures, indeed. (42.R4f5 is insufficient: 42...gxf5 43.Qxf5+ Qg6 44.Rh8+ Kxh8 45.Qxg6 d3 46.Qxh5+ Kg8= and White has to be satisfied with a draw) Now, 42...d3? is still bad (Perhaps, Black should jettison his central pawn with 42...Re7 43.Qxd4 Qxd4 44.Rxd4 and fight for a draw in a rook endgame) because of 43.gxh5 Re7 44.Qf3 d2 45.Kh2+- The pawn cover of the black king is about to be completely removed, and Black will be defenseless against various threats, according to Houdini.] **42.Qe8!**

White bets everything on Rh8 and wins!

42...Re7

There is no defence. [At first glance, it looks like Black can still survive after 42...Rcc7 However, White has a magnificent 43.R4f6!!



and Black is helpless: 43...d2 44.Rh8+ Qxh8 45.Qxg6#; 42...d2 43.Rh8+ (43.R4f6 also wins) 43...Qxh8 44.Qxd7+ Qg7 45.Rf7 Qxf7 46.Qxf7+ is a simple win]

43.Rh8+

Again, the only but sufficient move.

43...Qxh8 44.Qxe7+ Kh6 45.Rf7

Checkmate or huge material losses are inevitable. 1-0

The tournament was organized and directed by Tony Ficzer, who despite having a very busy schedule ensured that the tournament ran in a pretty smooth fashion and that all organizational hiccups were dealt with in an expedient fashion. A special thank you also must be extended to Jim Daniluk and Frank Kluytmans who helped with the various organizational aspects of the event.

Calgary International Reserves

By Vlad Rekhson

This year the Reserves was broken into two sections. The Open and the under 1200 which was targeting the crowd that may otherwise be overwhelmed to play in a regular Swiss. The Reserves Open section was held in 6 rounds over the three day Victoria day weekend. A total of 18 participants entered the event with Brad Booker, Roy Yearwood and Jean-Francois Wen as favourites to win the \$500 first prize.

The top three also finished in rating order. Brad showed a truly great performance as he destroyed the field with a perfect 6/6! Roy Yearwood won second with 4.5/6. Jean-Francois Wen finished with 4/6 and shared third with veterans Paul Usselman and Art Milne. The u-1700 prize was split three ways between the Lethbridge Junior-Jafar Faraji and newcomers Patrick Palardy and Albert Fehr with 3/6 each. The u-1300 award went to the Morley, AB representative-Robert Wilson who scored 2/6. A special mention has to be given to Aaron Sequillion who was an odd man in both the International and Reserves sections, meaning that on one occasion he got to play in the Reserves in the morning and in the International in the evening! Aaron had to be available to play in all rounds knowing that he might now play in any. The event was directed by Frank Kluytmans.

Calgary International U1200

By: Frank Kluytmans

2012 is the first year we made three sections in the Calgary International Chess Classic, with a U1200 sections dedicated to any junior or senior with a CFC rating of under 1200. The event drew a reasonable turnout of 10 juniors and 1

senior. The section was played over 7 rounds, during the first 2 days, Saturday and Sunday of the Victoria Day long weekend. The other interesting component was the use of a new time control: game in 45 minutes with a 30 second increment after each individual move. 1st overall and winner of \$100 was a junior player and tournament rookie named Mohammad Fellah. After taking the 1st round forced bye, he won 5 games and had only one draw, for a total score of 6.5. 2nd place and winner of \$60 was Patrick Tolentino with 5.5 points, losing only to the winner Mohammad. 3rd place and winning \$30 was Bryan Ma with 5 points, who was the only player taking a half point from overall winner Mohammad. The biggest upset came by way of another junior and also tournament rookie Tamir Bulga who won over senior player George Stacey.

Calgary International Blitz Championship

by Tony Ficzer



Friday night blitz in Calgary has never been like this before. It was held very shortly after round six finished. While only 18 players joined, it was the strongest blitz tournament I have ever directed and it was probably the strongest blitz tournament Canada has seen in quite a while. Four GMs, two IMs, two FMs with a scattering of local masters. The format was a 5 double-round swiss with a 5 minute time control. Things went pretty much as expected as Kovalyov and Shabalov shared 1st place with 8.5/10 to split most of the money. Gurevich and Hansen split the rest of the purse, finishing with 6.5/10. Kovalyov requested running a speed tournament every night from there on!

2012 Alberta Junior Championship

Edmonton Chess Club
#204 10840 124 St.
Edmonton, AB T5M-0H3

Organizer: Richard Pua
Email: richardpua@rocketmail.com

Dates: November 3, 4 2012

Format: 5 round Swiss

Prizes: Cash/trophies, travel voucher for the main event winner.

Check: www.albertachess.org for updates

Calgary Junior Club

Halloween

Tournament

Saturday, Oct. 27th, 1:00-5:00

Start time: 1 pm
Pre-registration: By 7 pm, Thursday October 25th. Early registration helps us to organize the tournament and start on time. Registrations on the tournament day will be accepted by 12:30,
Special deal: Pre-register for 6 tournaments and get 1 free!
Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd per section: medallions. Trophies for top girl, top beginner and top school in the tournament. You will get a free entry to a monthly tournament if you bring someone new to the Chess Club.

Tournament fee \$5.00
CJCC Membership \$5.00



Imperfect Information?

By: David Ottosen

Many people are attracted to chess as a result of its reputation as a game of “perfect information”, or a game “with no luck involved”. I’m here to claim that hidden information, randomness, and luck exists in chess, and understanding how to use (if not rely on!) it can have a positive impact on your results. I’d like to now demonstrate my understanding of the subject by showing you a bunch of games I’ve lost.

Ottosen, David (2084) -- Porper, Edward (2495)
Northern Alberta Open (5) Edmonton

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.h3 O-O 7.Be3 c6 8.Bb3 b5

At this point, I was already uncomfortable with my position; I have never loved the symmetrical openings, and I certainly had never prepared anything special to play against a strong player essaying the Philidor’s. As I later realized in the quiet of studying, allowing ...b5 is probably a mistake, and white should prevent it with a4.

Adding to the general discomfort with the position was a basic lack of confidence; I hadn’t played anyone particularly strong in quite some time, and I knew I was going to need some good fortune to win.

One of the things I’ve learned from “other forms of competition” is that when you’re the underdog, you should embrace randomness; it’s for this reason that hockey teams pull their goalie at the end – they are likely to lose, so take on significantly more risk in order to give yourself at least some chances. I actually had an interesting conversation with Mike Zeggelaar at this tournament, where I showed him a position where white had the chance to take a risky pawn, and I asked him if he’d take it; he started discussing the merits of the position which obviously couldn’t be clearly decided one way or another, so I suggested he think about who he would take the pawn against, and who he wouldn’t.

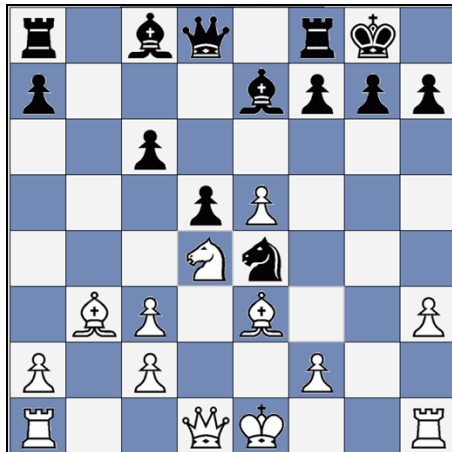
He ended up taking a normal position in the discussion (take it against a weak player and outplay them, don’t take it against a stronger player as it’s too risky); this is where I jumped back in and said that in my opinion he had it

backwards; there’s no reason to gamble against a weak opponent when you can play solidly and await self destruction, and there’s huge incentive to take wild shots against strong players and hope for confusion where maybe you can get a win. With all that in mind, I considered the “normal” move of something like 9.a3 here, and rejected it because I wanted to instigate a crisis of some sort; essentially, I’m the weak player in this game, and if it proceeds on normal lines, I will probably lose without much of a fight just because each of his moves will probably be just a little better than mine.

9.g4?!

After the game, Porper dismissed this as “suicide” and undoubtedly, from his perspective, it is; it would be suicidal for him to consider playing a move like this against me, but it might just be plausible enough for me to play it against him.

9...b4 10.g5 bxc3 11.gxf6 Nxf6 12.bxc3 Nxe4 13.dxe5 d5 14.Nd4



This was something like the position I’d been aiming for; white’s pawn structure is a mess, but there are some weaknesses on both sides and some dynamic open files and diagonals that I had hoped would give me enough activity for the potential mistake I needed. Unfortunately, sometimes the other team just steals the puck and fires it into your empty net...

14...Qa5 15.Bd2 Bd7 16.Qf3 c5 17.Bxd5 Nxd2 18.Kxd2 cxd4 19.Bxa8 Qxc3+ 20.Qxc3 dxc3+ 21.Kxc3 Rxa8

By now it was clear that it was almost certainly going to be lost; the open position is a huge negative with my king exposed and the opposing two bishops. I

quickly went down without much fight.
22.Rad1 Rc8+ 23.Kb2 Bf5 24.c3 Rb8+ 25.Kc1 Bg5+ 0-1

What’s clear to me after this game is that when I elect to take my chances, it’s a lot more risky than before; “back in the day” a line like this could be tried as the majority of Albertan opponents (including masters) didn’t really calculate far enough and accurately enough to punish so efficiently; in most cases, looking 5-6 moves (10-12 ply) ahead would be sufficient, but it’s pretty clear that Porper looked well beyond this and realized the whole thing was a bluff; essentially, I calculated to the first diagram, and him to the second, and that’s not a recipe for success.

Building off this “success”, it was time to venture back to the Edmonton Chess Club; if you want pure honesty, I expected to come in and win several games, and have a tough one or two as a nice rust removal event. Instead, I found myself as the #7 seed, looking up at 6 masters. After a long awaited win over the Rocket in round 2, it was time to face Alberta’s newest star prodigy:

Wang, Richard (2380) -- Ottosen, David (2080)
ECC March (3) Edmonton

By contrast to the first game, this one I did have time to prepare for, and spent several days trying to decide what to play. The good news was that Richard has a very narrow opening repertoire with white, and it isn’t exactly what I would call heavily invested in critical lines; he’s obviously pursued a minimalist opening strategy and relying on his ability to outplay in the middlegame (a strategy that you can hardly argue has been unsuccessful).

After several days, I determined the course I wished to take in the opening, and in all honesty, I could not have been happier with how it went.

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.e3 Bg4 4.Nbd2 e5 5.h3 Bxf3 6.Nxf3 e4 7.Nd2 Nce7 8.c4 c6 9.Be2 f5 10.O-O Nf6

The position looks oddly like a reverse advance French, and I was happy about that; in most of his white games, he seemed to be trying to get a relatively static center and playing through it; I knew that would be tough for him to achieve in this spot. Now, all is not peaches and cream, as I’ve had to give up the two bishops, and my king isn’t exactly safe and secure, but I’ve got the kind of unbalanced

position I didn't get against Porper, and one that I believed with which he might be slightly less comfortable.

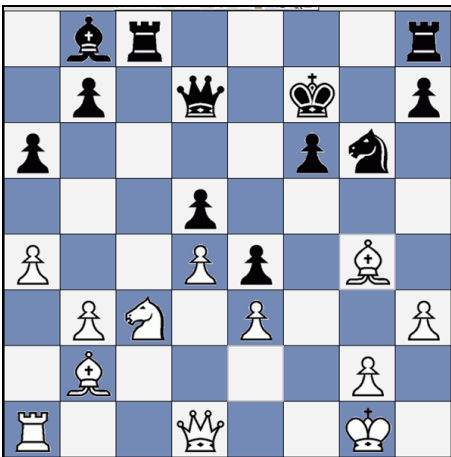
**11.b3 Ng6 12.f3 Bd6 13.fxe4 fxe4
14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Bb5+ Ke7 16.a4 a6
17.Be2 Rc8 18.Bb2 Qd7 19.Nb1**

Our relatively brief postmortem was funny in that just about every move was met by one of us saying "I never even considered you might do that" – this was one of those moments; I had (and really still have) not much idea what the plan was here. I did know that if that was his best move, things were probably going pretty well for me. From here, it was also a basic exercise in deduction – I have more space + his pieces are cut off from the king = play for mate.

19...Bb8! 20.Rxf6!

Here is a great example of Richard I believe showing understanding of what I talked about earlier – his position is going downhill quickly as he has lost all the files and diagonals and has no space or development. In fact, after the coming Qc7, mate may be very difficult to prevent. So, he begins to complicate as much as possible to try to pressure me into a mistake, which isn't long in coming...

20...gxf6 21.Nc3 Kf7 22.Bg4



22...Qd6?

Entranced by the thought of mate, I happily give back the exchange. However, I'm now violating my own principles – I have the advantage now and don't need this kind of complication to win. I should simply play ...f5 and defend everything, and ask him how he plans to make progress with no space, no central control, and very little activity. To carry on the earlier metaphor, I now pull my own goalie despite having a 1 goal lead, and it turns out that, tactically speaking, he's got the 1980's Oilers as his forward line and I

have a couple of Timbits playing defence. The rest is a lengthy series of strong moves by him, and extremely weak moves by me that result in his victory. There are a number of spots for me to improve and draw, but these are not really central to my main theme.

**23.Bxc8 Qh2+ 24.Kf1 Bg3 25.Qg4 Qh1+
26.Ke2 Qxg2+ 27.Kd1 Qf1+ 28.Kc2
Qd3+ 29.Kc1 Be1 30.Be6+ Ke7
31.Nxd5+ Kd8 32.Qd1 1-0**

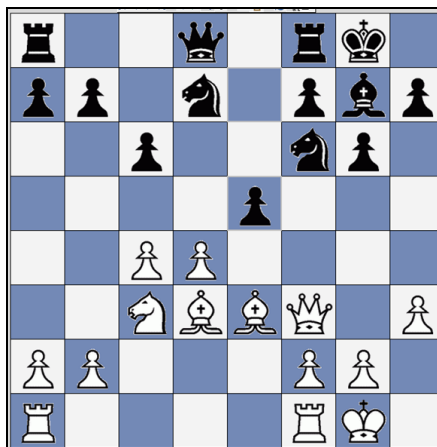
Still, a relative success in that I got what I felt to be a winning position against a strong player with black, and just got carried away. Just as many players have what I consider a weakness of realizing when it's time to introduce randomness and complication into the game, I have my own weakness of determining the right time to introduce order and safety.

So, building on THAT success (yep – I often consider losses success, no matter how much self-flagellation occurs on the drive home), it was off to the Edmonton International Qualifier, where I had my third opportunity in as many tournaments to play a strong master who I'd never faced before.

Ottosen, David (2094) -- Yam, Alex (2364)

ECC Qualifier (2)

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6
5.Nb5 Qd8 6.c4 c6 7.Nc3 g6 8.Nf3 Bg4
9.Be3 Bg7 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Nbd7
12.Bd3 O-O 13.O-O e5!**



So, with this, my illusion that I'd gotten an edge in the opening was dispelled. I do still have the two bishops and slightly more active pieces, but it's definitely time to determine what to do. Once again, I considered a "safe" move like 14.Bc2, but

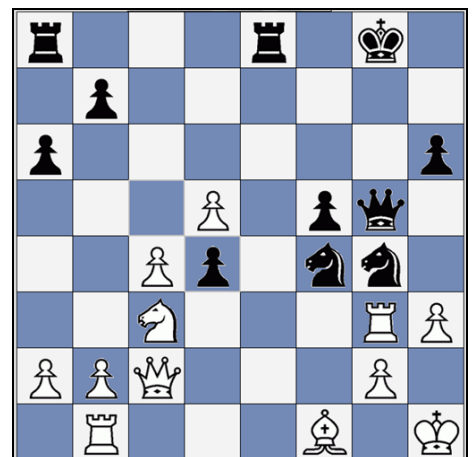
I just didn't see how I was going to outplay him from that position. Given that, I elected to try to imbalance the center and potentially induce him into overextending himself in attack which again might give me a shot to win.

I actually think he makes an error here in closing the center, practically speaking; it commits him to an all or nothing kingside attack, and as the stronger player, getting committed like this without being certain of how it will play out is questionable. Contrast to Porper in game 1, where he committed to punishing my early advance, but only because he could see the end result. This is much more speculative (and risky) for him.

**14.d5 c5?! 15.Qe2 Re8 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bh4
Qb6 18.Qc2 Nh5 19.Rfe1 Nf4 20.Bf1 f5
21.f3 a6 22.Bf2 Qf6 23.Rab1 Qg5
24.Kh2**

So, black has essentially gone all in on his attack; he has allowed me to consolidate the two bishops in defence, opened up his own king, and acceded the potentially powerful passed d5 pawn. If his attack doesn't break through, white is going to hold considerable positional trumps, and white is not far from pushing black off the attack by playing g3+h4. This isn't to say all is happiness and rainbows in white's world; the attack must still be repelled, and black is well known for his tactical ability.

**24...e4!? 25.fxe4 Be5 26.Kh1 Nf6
27.exf5 gxf5 28.Re3 Bd4 29.Rg3 Ng4
30.Bxd4 cxd4**



Up to here, both players have played pretty well perfectly (at least if you can be ordered from a German software company). Black still has significant attack but white is close to consolidating after which the extra material and passed pawns

should lead to a win. However, it was here that once again tactical errors appeared and he was rewarded. I had considered the correct move of 31.Ne4! (with the idea of 31...Rxe4 32.Rxg4 fxe4 33.Qxe4 when white removes most of the pieces and retains material advantage), but couldn't find a good response to 31...Qh4. What I'd missed is the new pin allowing the insanity that is 32.Qf2!!, and black's position can't stand the strain.

The move played instead simply results in me falling apart quickly, until the final embarrassment of overlooking mate in one in a dead lost position.

31.Na4 Re3 32.Rxe3 dxe3 33.g3 Nf2+ 34.Kh2 Nh5 35.g4 Qf4+ 36.Kg2 Qg3# 0-1

So, in the end, his decision to scramble the position on move 14 didn't cost him the point, but once again the subsequent game demonstrated the dangers in gambling with your position when you're the favorite; he undertook a great deal of risk of losing and had to really expend a lot of time and effort to find some powerful moves (28...Bd4 and 31...Re3 both stand out) to win, and get a mistake from me as well. Had he simply traded on d5 and played against the isolated pawn, he could have had a much less stressful afternoon and likely still gotten the point anyways. So, what to take away from the three games?

In all three, I did strive to complicate the game as I was facing significantly stronger opposition; in the first game, it fell apart as the complications weren't really that complicated and he calculated through them pretty easily. In the second game, it worked very well, but this time I was the one who failed to realize when it was time to take my foot off the gas and play some consolidating moves. In the final one (which is probably the best of the bunch), I obtained the requisite wacky position with the help of my opponent, but just proved unable to finish the job.

When you are playing, thinking about where you stand (at all points in the game) is a valuable thing to do; it provides you the roadmap for not only what specific move you should play, but what kind of move you should even be looking for. The better your position, the less "randomizing" a move you should be looking for, and vice versa.

Gardner wins the 7th Edmonton International Qualifier

By Vlad Rekhson



National Masters Rob Gardner and Alex Yam tied for first in the qualifying event to the 7th Edmonton International with 4/5 each. Due to the fact that Rob won the head to head encounter he got the coveted spot in the big event. A total of 16 players took part in what is now quickly becoming a traditional event, just like the International itself. The tournament has a dual mandate; first to choose a player who would compete in the Edmonton International, but also to help fund-raise for the big event. This tournament has prizes, but 50% of the entry fees are used to support the Edmonton International, thus every participant in the Qualifier, is in fact helping to support the International. Ali Razzaq won best under 2000 with 3.5/5, Jeff Anthony De Guzman was best u -1800 with 3/5.

Standings

| # | Name | Rtng | Total |
|----|------------------------|------|-------|
| 1 | Robert J Gardner | 2299 | 4.0 |
| 2 | Alex Yam | 2380 | 4.0 |
| 3 | Vladislav Rekhson | 2104 | 3.5 |
| 4 | Ali Razzaq | 1856 | 3.5 |
| 5 | Jeff Anthony De Guzman | 1712 | 3.0 |
| 6 | Rick Pedersen | 1948 | 2.5 |
| 7 | Mike Sekuloff | 1544 | 2.5 |
| 8 | David Yao | 1296 | 2.5 |
| 9 | David Ottosen | 2096 | 2.0 |
| 10 | Arnold McKay | 1879 | 2.0 |
| 11 | Ryan Lacy | 1700 | 2.0 |
| 12 | Aaron Sequillion | 2017 | 2.0 |
| 13 | Terry Seehagen | 1863 | 2.0 |
| 14 | Nicolas Haynes | 2336 | 1.5 |
| 15 | George Sponga | 1707 | 1.0 |
| 16 | Trevor Robertson | 1590 | 0.5 |

Road Warrior Update



The 2012 edition of has several changes compared to previous years.

The prizes will be as follows:

1st: \$200

2nd: \$100

3rd: \$50

Special prize: \$150

The special prize will be drawn randomly and it will go to one player who will travel to at least two ACA Road Warrior tournaments outside of their region (minimum one hour drive) in 2012.

Full details and regulations can be found at: www.albertachess.org/Road_Warrior.html

2012 Standings

| # | Road Warrior | Home | Pts |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|------|
| 1 | Chris White | La Crete | 26.0 |
| 2 | Roy Yearwood | Calgary | 23.0 |
| 3 | Aaron Sequillion | Edmonton | 23.0 |
| 4 | David Miller | Grande Prairie/Edm | 20.0 |
| 5 | Vlad Rekhson | Calgary | 17.0 |
| 6 | Terry Chaisson | Lloydminster | 17.0 |
| 7 | Tim Pradzinski | Grande Prairie | 16.0 |
| 8 | Alex Yam | Calgary | 15.0 |
| 9 | Richard Wang | Edmonton | 14.0 |
| 10 | John Quiring | Edmonton | 13.0 |
| 11 | Steve Panteluk | Edmonton | 13.0 |
| 12 | Bill Bentley | Calgary | 10.0 |
| 13 | Regina-V Kalaydina | Calgary | 10.0 |
| 14 | Mike Zeggelaar | Edmonton | 10.0 |
| 15 | Jafar Faraji | Lethbridge | 10.0 |

2012 WBX Team Tournament

December 15-16

Edmonton Chess Club, #204 10840 124th Street

TD and Organizer: Ali Razzaq ali_alnajmi@hotmail.com



The event is a team tournament where 3 players will be allowed per team plus one possible substitute. The average rating of the team playing in every round cannot exceed **2000**. The format of the event will depend on the number of registered teams but will probably be a Swiss. Before you register a team, please make sure that you read the full regulations!

Participation: Anyone who is a CFC member, or willing to pay \$21 extra for adult, \$11 for junior. Memberships are available on-site.

Joining a team: Ask a few people around the club, or chess players you know, make sure that your team meets the tournament's regulations. Decide on who will be the captain and let Ali know! If you can't find a team on your own, contact the organizer.

Minimum rating regulation: Team must field a team in which the average of the 3 playing members does not exceed **2000**. Here is an example: a team can have three players rated 2200, 2000, 1800 (2000 average), or 2400, 2000, 1600 (2000 average), or even 1600, 1500, 1400 (below 2000 average). It is possible to have a team with substitutes so that some players will get to take a round off (there is no such thing as a team bye). It must be ensured that the 3 players in each round never exceed the 2000 threshold. For example, if a team consists of a 2300, 2200, 2100 and a 1500, the 1500 will have to play all the games while the other three players can alternate.

Rating period: Rating at the time of the official registration (and payment) will be used. After that even if your team's average rating will exceed 2000 you would still be eligible to play. For pairing purposes the actual rating at the time of the start of the event will be used.

Ratings used: The higher of CFC or FIDE ratings will be used. If a player has neither, the organizer retains the right to assign a rating to a player. The default rating for unrated participants will be 1500.

Board order: Teams will have pre-determined board orders. In each match the 1st board will play the 1st board of the other team, 2nd board against the 2nd board of the other team, 3rd board against the 3rd. Board order will not change during the event. Order will generally be based on ratings, however, the teams can change two players that are within 100 points of each other as long as it's done before the event. For example: board 1 can be 2150 while board 2 could be 2225, however, if board 1 is 2150 board 2 can't be 2275.

Schedule: 5 rounds. Saturday: Rd 1: 10am, Rd 2: 2pm, Rd 3: 6pm. Sunday, Rd 4: 10am, Rd 5: 2pm or ASAP. 1 hour late default.

Time control: game in 90 minutes plus 30 second increment from move 1.

Entry fees: Team fee: **\$90** and the team captain is expected to collect it from team members. An additional fee of \$21 for adults and \$11 for juniors will be charged per non-CFC member of a team.

Discounts: Teams will have a \$5 discount per junior (20 and younger) player in its roster with FIDE titled players (GM, IM, FM) receiving a \$20 discount (such players must play in at least 3 games to be eligible for the discount).

Prizes: Sum of entries minus \$5 ACA dues. Names of all the players of the winning team will be engraved on a permanent trophy displayed at the ECC.

Team Captain duties: Team captain will be responsible for all communications with the tournament organizer. He will determine who will play each round, make appeals and pay the team's entry fee. The team captain can also advise team members regarding draw offers when a member of a team is offered a draw, the team captain can be consulted and their answer can only be yes, no, or no response (the answer must be made without looking at the board position as the decision will be based solely on the needs of the team). Team captain will also be responsible for determining the team name.

This is the final *Road Warrior* event for 2012



Alberta finishes 4th at Canadian Chess Challenge

By Vlad Rekhson

This year's national chess challenge took place in Halifax, Nova-Scotia. The flights for all the 12 participants and captain were paid for by the Alberta Chess Association. The event was played in a round-robin format as the 10 provinces played each other using the active chess time controls. A total of 12 players represent each province, each representing a grade from 1-12. Team Alberta scored 6 match victories and 4 losses placing us fourth behind Ontario, Quebec and BC. The best results were shown by Ian Zhao (Grade 2). He scored 8/9 which tied for 1st and resulted in second place after the play-off. Kaixin Wang scored 7/9 in grade 3. Kaixin won the 3rd place play-off. Diwen Shi tied for 3rd in grade 7 with 7/9. Diwen lost the play-off and finished fourth. Chenxi Zhao also tied for 3rd in grade 8. He lost the play-off and finished fourth. Full Alberta results are below. Congratulations to all the kids for doing their best at the national competition.

| Players | | | Total |
|---------|------------------|--------|-------|
| Gr | Name | Rating | |
| 1 | William Bradford | 964 | 3 |
| 2 | Ian Zhao | 1203 | 8 |
| 3 | Kaixin Wang | 1656 | 7 |
| 4 | David Yao | 1728 | 6.5 |
| 5 | Ian McCullough | 1635 | 5 |
| 6 | Jamil Kassam | 1935 | 6 |
| 7 | Diwen Shi | 1712 | 7 |
| 8 | Chenxi Zhao | 1555 | 6.5 |
| 9 | Yuekai Wang | 1790 | 6 |
| 10 | Michael Ludwig | 1783 | 3 |
| 11 | Derek Thomas | 2016 | 3.5 |
| 12 | Harris Wang | 1746 | 5 |
| Totals | | | 66.5 |

Calgary Chess Club News



Calgary Open April 24-May 22

14 players attended the Tuesday Night Calgary Open. The ever present, Art Milne won the event with 4.5/5 finishing ahead of Hafiz Karmali and Paul Usselman with 3.5/5.

June Open

The monthly Tuesday night event in June attracted a total of 8 participants. Brian Miller and Ted Borowski shared first place with 3.5/5.

Calgary Stampede Open

The July Tuesday night event attracted a total of 14 participants. First went to newcomer Jonathan Harder who took first with 4/5. The surprise of the event was seven year old Quirck Migrino who finished second with 3.5/5 after only playing one game and having several byes.

Calgary August Open

The August Tuesday night event attracted 13 participants. Brian Miller emerged victorious with a perfect 4/4. Second went to Ted Borowski with 3.5/4.

All previously noted Calgary events were directed by: Frank Kluytmans

Calgary September Active No 1 September 9

The first edition of the Active Sunday series took place on September 9th. The events will take place during every Sunday in September, and possibly afterwards. A total of 8 players attended the event which was won by junior Diwen Shi with 4.5/5. Second went to Roy Yearwood with 4/5.



The Edmonton Chess Club

ECC Easter Open

The April monthly ECC Thursday night event contained 27 participants. FMs Richard Wang and Vladimir Pechenkin shared first with 3.5/4 after drawing each

other. Third was shared by Aaron Sequillion and Robert Brazeau.

ECC Skeel Memorial

The May monthly ECC Thursday night event attracted 34 participants. FM Vladimir Pechenkin won the event with 4.5/5. Second was shared by NM Rob Gardner, junior Kaixin Wang and newcomer from Saskatoon Trevor Robertson with 3.5/5.

ECC Short Knights of Summer

The June monthly ECC Thursday night event was named after GM Nigel Short as he arrived this month to participate in the Edmonton International. A total of 35 players took part in the event. Several of the top participants had to take a last round bye due to their participation in the International which allowed the lower rated guys to win first. NMs Micah Hughey and Peter Kalisvaart shared first together with Richard Roberts. All the winners scored 3/4.

ECC Summer Open

The July monthly ECC Thursday night event had a total of 35 participants for the second month in a row. FM Vladimir Pechenkin took first with a perfect 4/4. FM Richard Wang and NM Rob Gardner shared second with 3/4. Richard won round 3 and 4 games but had to take byes in the first two rounds due to his participation in the Canadian Youth and Open events.

ECC Frank Anderson Memorial

The August monthly ECC Thursday night event attracted 37 participants. FM Vladimir Pechenkin took first with 4.5/5. Edmonton newcomer David Miller took second with 4/5. Junior Zack Kirsch finished third with 3.5/5.

All ECC Thursday night events were directed by Micah Hughey

Edmonton May Junior Active May 26

6 players attended the inaugural ECC junior club event. FM Richard Wang was clearly the class of the field as he finished with a perfect 4/4 score. Second was shared by Dennis Situ, Kaining Lin and David Yao with 2/4 each. The event was organized and directed by Harris Wang.

2012 Lethbridge Active



By Peter Davis-Imhof

The Lethbridge Active Tournament on September 1, 2012 saw seven players from Lethbridge and Medicine Hat in a five round Swiss style tournament. The low registration fee of just \$5 brought a couple of new players to the tournament circle. After five rounds, Garth Dunn and Gregory Holmes had taken the two top spots. Kudos go to Garth who had initiated the tournament and provided prizes for the top four ranked players. The tournament fees minus the rating costs were paid out to the player who accomplished the biggest upset: 13 year old Josh Oba drew Ryan Barnes (471 rating points higher than Josh) and, in the last round, beat Kurt Berndtsson (almost 200 ranking points higher than Josh).

Fort McMurray Chess Exhibition

The Fort McMurray Public Library attracted a total of 23 players for the simultaneous exhibition which was conducted by chess expert— Marc Sicotte. The exhibition took place on September 15th.

Marc moved to Fort McMurray several months ago from Longueuil, Québec, but this September he relocated to Edmonton. Marc took almost three hours and in the end he emerged victorious in 21 games losing one, and drawing one game.

18th Annual Medicine Hat OPEN (Sept. 15 - 16, 2012)

By: *Dr. Bill Taylor, Organizer*

This year's Medicine Hat "OPEN" Chess Tournament took place on a relatively warm, sunny "Fall" weekend. Since starting this tournament in 1995, we continue to be blessed largely with sunshine and warmth. I wish I could take credit, but sadly this lies with powers that are greater than I have. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this year did not offer an opportunity for out-of-town players to see the GIANT CHESS pieces at the world's "Largest Chess Set". Hopefully next year!

We were pleased to again welcome, for the second year in a row, 18 participants. It was a privilege to have Vlad Rekhson (our hardworking and dedicated Executive Director) back to the tournament to defend his title. Additionally, Vlad assisted me with directing the Tournament. As a Tournament Director, I was delighted that we had 5 "new" chess players join us this year. Lethbridge and Medicine Hat fielded the largest number of participants at 5 each, followed by Calgary with 4, Edmonton with 3, and Lloydminster with 1 (Terry Chaisson). We had one new unrated player, and two Juniors join us. This included the very talented Nicka Kalaydina.

This year saw the end of a 17 year pattern, in which no previous tournament winner had successfully defended their championship in a consecutive year. This was because Vlad Rekhson successfully defended his 2011 title with a 4.5/5, a first place finish. There was a **4 way tie** for second place (with 3.5/5) between Dave Ottosen, Regina-Veronica (Nicka) Kalaydina, Bill Bentley, and Pat Porter. On the basis of tie-breaks, Dave was awarded second place. Dave also holds the distinction of earning a place on the annual shield for each year that he has participated (1995, 1999, and now 2012). Way to go Dave!! Can he/will he continue to achieve this lofty standard of perfection? The gauntlet is laid at his feet. In the under 1800 section (consisting of 10 players), Pat Porter finished first with 3.5/5. In second place was Dr. Paul Viminutz with 3/5. Paul also scored the "biggest upset" of the tournament (as a gentleman, I do not need to mention the name of this opponent). Tied for third place were Medicine Hat's own Ryan J.

Barnes (yes there is another Ryan Barnes who is a chess player) and Garth Dunn from Lethbridge with 2.5/5. All the winners in the two sections were awarded prizes consisting of either merchandise, or gift certificates and cash.

True to tradition, all tournament participants were treated to the usual Medicine Hat Chess Club and "Taylor-made" hospitality. This is, in no small part, due to my good wife, Margaret, who coordinates many of the special offerings this tournament has pioneered. Our hospitality once again included complimentary coffee, tea, a panoply of soft drinks, assorted muffins, a variety of Werther® soft and hard candies, Real Fruit® "gummies", animal shaped gummies, and President's Choice® "gourmet" jelly beans. All of this came courtesy of the generous support of **53** sponsors. Prior to the commencement of each round, Andrew Wallbank and I shared a variety of jokes with the assembled multitude. We plan to continue with this tradition, which started in 2009. My hope is that future attendees will come with a joke (or two) and regale the audience to reap the rewards of a joke well told or their public scorn. We continued our Saturday night "**Dessert and Drinks**" social (for the eleventh consecutive year!), which this year featured carrot cake, mixed berries, ice cream, and whipped cream. A selection of soft drinks and fruit juices were also available. On Sunday at noon, we again offered our popular "**Lunch for a Buck**" for the 15th straight year. Margaret, my wife, again was integral in the organization and delivery of this wonderful lunch. This year featured a vegetable pasta soup, and a "make your own sandwich" tray consisting of various cold cuts, cheeses, tomatoes, lettuce, and condiments. For dessert, we enjoyed some macaroons and mini cinnamon buns.

Thanks to our sponsors, **\$275.00** was injected into the tournament prize fund, over and above the entry fees. This is the **14th** straight year that our prize fund has exceeded the value of the entry fees. With the anticipated ongoing support of our many sponsors, and the new sponsors that I continue to find, I will continue to offer all of these "perks" and enhancements next year.

Medicine Hat (and Canada's) unique **GIANT CHESS SET Project** enjoyed a seventh full season. We once again hired two "**Chess Educators/Civic**

Ambassadors" (Erin Huber and Melanie Scheffelmaier) who worked for our Project from May 18th - September 3rd. Due to logistical staffing challenges, the pieces were not out this past weekend and the Project is now in hiatus until our 2013 season. We held our fifth "Live" chess game on the lawn in front of the Court of Queen's Bench building close to our GIANT CHESS SET, on Saturday afternoon, June 2nd during Medicine Hat's "Spectrum" festival; and participated in "Heritage Day" activities on Monday, August 6th. This year we welcomed over **4,000** visitors to our Project.

Funding for this Project was again obtained from a variety of federal, provincial, and local sources. The Medicine Hat Chess Society (MHCS) participated in its third casino on September 9 and 10, 2012, which will replenish our account to fund this Project. I wish to extend again, appreciation on behalf of the MHCC and MHCS to the Alberta Chess Association for their support in the early years of the operation of our GCS Project. Chess players and organizers throughout Alberta are invited to contact the undersigned for advice on how to create a permanently surfaced GIANT CHESS Set in your community. I continue to challenge other tournament committees and TDs elsewhere to offer similar enhancements at their tournaments. I believe this is being done to some degree, and for this I am sure the participants are very grateful. Such enhancements would not be possible, without the support of sponsors. As stated many times before, (and worth repeating again!), SPONSORSHIP MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE!! Please feel free to contact me if you want some ideas on how to go about it. It's not really that difficult. Until next year ...

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,
Aaron Sequillion-Edmonton
Calgary Junior Chess Club
NM Roy Yearwood-Calgary
Frank Kluytmans-Calgary
Lethbridge Junior Chess



Nicka Kalaydina wins the AB Women's

By Vlad Rekhson

The 2012 championship took place at the Edmonton chess club on May 26. The event was held in a single round-robin format. Interestingly enough, even though the tournament took place in Edmonton, there were no local participants as all Edmonton women which were invited to take part in this event declined the participation. Thus, Edmonton acted as a mid-point between Calgary and Fort McMurray with two participants each. It was nice to see some new faces on the Alberta's women scene as for 3 out of four participants this was the first ever CFC tournament. This of course meant that Nicka Kalaydina acted as a favourite despite being the youngest participant. Nevertheless, it wasn't easy for her. In the first round, we saw an interesting daughter-mother match-up as Nicka took on her mother Nina. Nina held on for a while but eventually, she blundered which allowed Nicka to win the game. In the all Fort McMurray match-up, Jina Burn confidently defeated Ancy Chacko. In round 2, Nicka Kalaydina defeated Ancy Chacko, while Jina seemed to be heading for a win against Nina Kalaydina. Unfortunately, the inexperience of playing in tournaments took its toll as Jina was not used to time pressure as she created a stalemate in a winning position. In the last round, Nina Kalaydina beat Ancy Chacko to take third place which meant that the title would be decided among the top two players; Jina Burn and Nicka Kalaydina. Nicka seemed to play the opening quite

passively and Jina took over the game, in a position which seemed to be quite bad for Nicka, she managed to open things up and delivered a stalemate. This was another point where Jina's inexperience took its toll. In order to win the title Jina needed to win the game, but she did not look deep enough which would have allowed her to see that she could in fact escape the perpetual check and have excellent winning chances. Despite this result, Jina proved to be a formidable contender for the Alberta Women's title and she may be a threat to take it in the future. The draw allowed Nicka to win her third provincial title in a row and a travel voucher in the amount of \$500 courtesy of the Alberta Chess Association.

Burn, Jina - Kalaydina, Nicka (2001) [A34]

2012 AB Women's (3), 26.05.2012

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e4 Nc6 4.Nf3 d6 5.d3 e6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Ne1 Nd4 9.f4 Nd7 10.Nf3 Bf6 11.Nb5 Nxb5 12.cxb5 Qb6 13.a4 c4+ 14.Kh1 cxd3 15.Bxd3 Nc5 16.e5 Be7 17.Be3 Qa5 18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.Qc2 h6 20.Rfd1 Qc7 21.Be4 a6 22.bxa6 Rxa6 23.b4 Bd7 24.b5 Raa8 25.b6 Qc8 26.a5 Be6 27.Nd2 Rd8 28.Nc4 Rd4 29.Nd6 Rxd1+ 30.Qxd1 Bxd6 31.Bxc6 Qxc6 32.Qxd6 Qb5 33.h3 Kh7 34.Qc7 Qb2 35.Rd1 Qe2 36.Rc1 Qd2 37.Rxc5 Qxf4 38.Qxb7 Qf1+ 39.Kh2 Qf4+ 40.Kh1 Qf1+ 41.Kh2 Qf4+ ½-½

(Here the game could have continued 42. g3! Qf2+ 43. Qg2 (perhaps a move that Jina missed) Qxc5 44. Qe4+ g6 45. Qxa8

and white's queenside pawns become virtually unstoppable).



Gary Ng takes Alberta Active, Derek Zhang takes Reserves

By Vlad Rekhson

Congratulations to NM Gary Ng and Derek Zhang for winning their sections at the 2012 AB Active. A total of 14 players took part in the annual event which was organized and directed by Frank Kluytmans at the Calgary Chess Club on June 9th.

The Open section was won by newcomer from Nova-Scotia, NM Gary Ng. He scored 4.5/5.

Second went to Vlad Rekhson with 3.5/5.

Third was shared by Roy Yearwood and Diwen Shi with 3/5 each. The u-1200 section was won by Derek Zhang with 4.5/5. Second went to Chen Wu with 4/5.

Third place went to Zeling Li with 3/5.

For the first time since I started playing tournament chess (more than 20 years) I encountered a bishop+knight vs. lone king endgame. Unfortunately, I was on the wrong side of it. I had a difficult endgame and decided to give up my last piece for Diwen's last pawn thinking that it would be difficult for him to execute the win with less than 2 minutes left (and 10 seconds increment per move). I was quite impressed with how confidently Diwen executed the mating pattern to win the game!

Full standings are available at: <http://albertachess.org/2012ABAC.html>



Pechenkin, Vladimir (2333) - Wang, Richard (2361) [D17]
Over 1800 Edmonton (4), 02.09.2012

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Nb6 8.Ne5 a5 9.Bg5 g6 10.e3 Bg7 11.Bd3 Bxd3 12.Nxd3 Nfd5 13.Qb3 0-0 14.0-0 Qd6 15.Bh4 Nd7 16.Bg3 e5 17.Nxd5 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 cxd5 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.dxe5 Rfe8 21.Rfd1 Rad8 22.Bh4 Rc8 23.f4 Rc4 24.Bf2 f6 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.b3 Rb4 27.Rab1 d4 28.exd4 Rd8 29.d5 Rxf4 30.Bb6 Rd7 31.Rd3 Bd8 32.Bxd8 Rxd8 33.Rc1 Rf6 34.Rc7 b6 35.h3 Rfd6 36.Re3 R8d7 37.Rxd7 Rxd7 38.Re6 Rxd5 39.Rxb6 Rd2 40.Rb5 Rb2 41.Kh2 Kg7 42.Kg3 h6 43.h4 Kf6 44.Kf3 h5 45.g3 Rc2 46.Ke4 Rc3 47.Kf4 Rd3 48.Rxa5 Rxb3



49.Rb5 Ra3 50.a5 Kg7 51.Rg5 Ra1 52.Ke4 Kf6 53.Kd4 Ra4+ 54.Kc3 Ra1 55.Kb4 Ra2 56.Kb5 Rb2+ 57.Kc6 Rc2+ 58.Kb6 Rb2+ 59.Rb5 Re2 60.a6 Re6+ 61.Ka5 Re7 62.Rc5 Re3 63.a7 Rxb3 64.Kb6 1-0

[White "Yuri Averbakh"]
[Black "Max Euwe"]
[Event "Zurich"] [Date "1953.10.17"]

1. d4 Nf6 2. e4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 c5 5. Nf3 O-O 6. Bd3 d5 7. O-O Nc6 8. a3 Bxc3 9. bxc3 dxc4 10. Bxc4 Qc7 11. Bd3 e5 12. Qc2 Qe7 13. dxe5 Nxe5 14. Nxe5 Qxe5 15. Re1 Bd7 16. Bb2 c4 17. Bxc4 Ng4 18. f4 Qc5 19. Qd3 Rad8 20. Rad1 Qb6 21. Qe2 Nxe3 22. Qxe3 Qxb2 23. Re2 Qb6 24. Qxb6 axb6 25. Re7 Be6 26. Rxd8 Rxd8 27. Bxe6 fxe6 28. Rxb7 Rc8 29. Rxb6 Rxc3 30. Ra6 Kf7 31. Kf2 h5 32. a4 Ra3 33. h4 Kf6 34. Ra5 g6 35. Ke2 Rg3 36. Rg5 Ra3 37. a5 Kf7 38. Kd2 Ke7 39. Kc2 Kd6 40. Kb2 Ra4 41.g3 Kc6 42. Kb3 Ra1 43. Kb4 Rb1+ 44. Kc4 Ra1 45. Kb3 1-0

Pechenkin, Gardner win Alberta Over 1800, Lacy takes under 1800

By Vlad Rekhson

The Alberta Over and Under 1800 events are traditional ACA events meant to provide players with an opportunity to play in a Swiss (rather than Round-Robin) event with players of strengths closer to their own. This tournament is alternating between Edmonton and Calgary on an annual basis, but this year it took place in the Edmonton Chess Club. Experienced director Richard Pua organized and directed this event which ran without a blemish. Over the past couple of years, quite a few people suggested changing the tournament format to Over/Under 2000 in order to better represent the type of chess players in Alberta today. While this is debatable, the fact of the matter was that the Over 1800 section could have been an Over 2000, due to the fact that all the participants (other than Rob Brazeau who only stepped in to avoid byes) were over that rating threshold. Overall, the "Over" section was quite strong and unpredictable. Going into the event, it appeared that Richard Wang fresh off taking his IM title will be the event favourite, but Edmonton Masters had other ideas. First, Rob Gardner drew against Richard in round 3,

and later Edmonton Champion, FM Vladimir Pechenkin defeated the new IM elect in round 4. In the end, Rob and Vlad shared first with 4/5, but what was quite interesting was the fact that even though the event only included 10 players, the co-winners never faced each other! Third went to IM Richard Wang with 3.5/5. It is quite unusual to see a best under 2200 prize being awarded in Alberta, but Brad Willis was a worthy recipient after a strong showing which included a draw against FM Vladimir Pechenkin and a win against NM Nicolas Haynes. Brad finished with 2.5/5

In the Under 1800 section, there was no stopping Ryan Lacy, who has shown great improvement. Ryan destroyed the field with a very impressive 5/5! Second went to the ever exuberant George Sponga who scored 4/5. Third went to junior David Yao who finished with 3.5/5.

The following is a crucial 4th round game where FM Pechenkin defeated the newly crowned IM-Richard Wang. After the game Vlad said that he used ideas from the famous 1953 game between Averbakh and Euwe to come up with the winning plan in the endgame. Both games are provided below.



IM Hansen becomes Alberta's first ever Grandmaster at the Olympiad

By Vlad Rekhson

For those who know Eric, there was no real doubt that he would become a grandmaster sooner or later. He has been a trailblazer of Alberta chess since early teenage years. Eric was the youngest ever Alberta champion at 15, the youngest ever FM at 16, the youngest ever IM at 18 and he had many more incredible achievements. Now at the age of 20 Eric becomes our province's first ever Grandmaster.

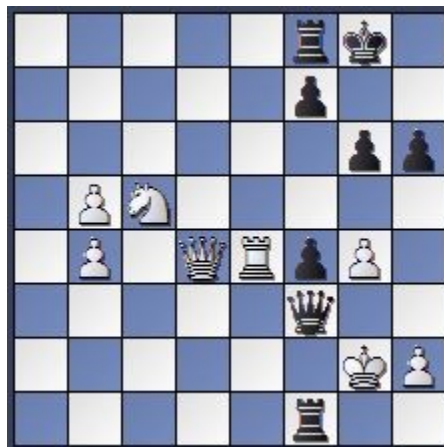
For a while Eric's rating appeared to be stagnant in the mid-2400s, but his chess career has been full of stagnation followed by rapid improvement. It appears that we are now in the midst of the latter. Following a successful Canadian Open which Eric won and a decent performance at the Quebec Open, he travelled to Europe where he showed a strong finish at the World Junior which certainly foreshadowed what was about to come. Immediately after the World Junior, Eric travelled to Isthmia, Greece. This was arguably Eric's most successful tournament to date. He shared first in an event that included 11 Grandmasters, performing well over 2600 and earning his first ever GM norm. Immediately after this success, Eric travelled to Istanbul to take part in his first ever Olympiad. This year was truly a special year for Alberta at the Olympiad. For the first time

since 1939 an Alberta resident played at the prestigious event. We had double the pleasure to see two representatives of our province as IMs Eric Hansen and Edward Porper took part in the event. Canada was ranked 53rd in a 155 team tournament. Our team's only GM, Bator Sambuev occupied the first board, IM Leonid Gerzhoy was on board 2, IM Nikolay Noritsyn on board 3, Eric was on board 4 and Edmontonian IM Edward Porper was the substitute. Canada started quite well as they easily defeated a Haitian team (with the top player rated 2088), with a perfect 4-0. Both Eric and Edward defeated their much lower rated opponents. In second round, Canada scored an impressive 3-1 win against Turkmenistan ranked 57th. At the end the win appeared even more impressive as Turkmenistan finished the event in 31st spot. Eric defeated a 2397 GM on board 4 with a nice checkmate at the end, while Edward did not play.

GM Handszar Odeev (2397) - IM Eric Hansen (2472) [B43]

Chess Olympiad Istanbul TUR (2.31), 29.08.2012

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Bc5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 d6 9.Be3 Nd7 10.f4 Ngf6 11.g4 h6 12.a4 b6 13.Qe2 g6 14.Rae1 Bb7 15.Bd4 e5 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 0-0 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.c4 b5 20.cxb5 Bxd5 21.Nd2 Bc5 22.Bxc5 Nxc5 23.Bc4 Bxc4 24.Qxc4 axb5 25.axb5 Qb6 26.Kg2 Rad8 27.Ne4 Nd3 28.Re2 Nf4+ 29.Rxf4 exf4 30.Nc5 Qf6 31.Kf3 Rd4 32.Qc3 Qd6 33.Re4 Rd1 34.b4 Rf1+ 35.Kg2 Qd1 36.Qd4 Qf3# 0-1



In round 3, Canada faced Argentina that was ranked 29th at the start. Eric suffered

his only loss of the tournament with black against GM Sandro Mareco (2589). Edward drew against Martin Lorenzini (2482). Leonid drew on board 2 while Bator brought Canada a tie by defeating GM Fernando Peralta (2606). This was an impressive victory by Bator, unfortunately it was his last non-loss against a player rated over 1800. In round 4 Canada faced off against Mongolia, ranked 56th. Eric went back to his winning ways and defeated a 2493 rated GM in a very nice positional squeeze. Eric later called this game his favourite win of the tournament. Edward was trying hard to win with black but had to settle for a draw against a 2358 opponent. The top two boards split thus Canada was victorious with a score of 2.5-1.5

IM Eric Hansen (2472) - GM Tsegmed Batchuluun (2492) [C97]

Chess Olympiad Istanbul TUR (4.9),

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Bb4 5. e5 h6 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. bxc3 Ne4 8. Qg4 Kf8 9. Qf4 c5 10. Bd3 Nxd2 11. Qxd2 Nc6 12. Nf3 Qa5 13. dxc5 Qxc5 14. O-O Bd7 15. Rab1 b6 16. Rfe1 Rc8 17. Re3 Na5 18. Be2 Nc4 19. Bxc4 Qxc4 20. a3 Qa6 21. Qc1 Kg8 22. Nd4 Kh7 23. Rg3 Rhf8 24. h4 f6 25. Qe1 Qa5 26. f4 f5 27. h5 Rf7 28. Rd1 Re7 29. Kh2 Be8 30. Rh3 Rc4 31. Qh4 Qxa3 32. Rg1 Qc5 33. g4 fxg4 34. Rxg4 Rxd4 35. cxd4 Qxc2+ 36. Rg2 Qc7 37. Rc3 Qd7 38. Rgc2 Rf7 39. Qg4 Qe7 40. Rc7 Qf8 41. Qg6+ Kh8 42. Rc8 Re7 43. f5 exf5 44. Rd8 1-0



IM Hansen-GM Batchuluun final position

The victory brought Canada their toughest opponent of the competition an 8th ranked Azerbaijan. The Azeris had two players

ranked over 2700 and two over 2600, so Canada was in for a tough fight. Edward was resting and the top 3 boards lost. Eric saved the team from a wipeout as he drew against GM Gadir Guseinov rated 2613. In round 6 Canada faced off against the 38th ranked Mexicans. Edward was once again not playing, probably to avoid giving Eric 5 blacks in 6 games. Canada lost 2.5-1.5 but Eric scored another personal victory as he defeated a 2481 IM. In round 7 Canada was paired with the 32nd ranked team from Belarus. Canada suffered its third loss in a row, this time with a 3-1 score. Eric drew with white against a 2528 GM while Edward suffered his first loss of the competition against a 2523 GM with black. In round 8 Canada faced a very weak Maldives team. The Maldivian board 1 was rated 1790 thus Canada's 4-0 victory could not have come as a surprise. Eric did not play in this round. In round 9 Eric could virtually secure the GM norm and with that the title. Canada was facing the 40th ranked Kazakhstan and a win with the white pieces against a 2484 rated IM would essentially secure the title. Eric's opponent closed the position but Eric found a way to break through and won the game. Team Canada had a successful performance overall as they defeated the higher rated Kazakhs with the score of 3-1. At that point Eric was at 6/8. Had he faced an opponent rated 2485 or higher in the next round he would secure the GM norm regardless of the result. Normally, one needs to achieve 3 norms in order to earn the title but in the Olympiad a norm counts as double so this would be Eric's second and third norms. Since his rating had already surpassed the 2500 mark the norm would equal a desired title. The 10th round opponent was the 34th ranked team Sweden. Looking at their roster it became clear that Eric would earn his title regardless of the result. In this round Eric had white against a 2576 GM, Emmanuel Berg. Eric played enterprisingly but the game ended in a draw. Edward played a 2503 IM with black and secured the draw. Unfortunately, Bator lost another game on board one thus Canada lost 2.5-1.5. Going into the last round, Canada was ranked 52nd and appeared to have a favourable pairing against the 62nd ranked Albania. With a victory, Canada could be propelled to a position in the lower 40s which would mark a fairly successful Olympiad considering the starting ranking.

On board one it appeared that Bator's game was going to end in a draw by perpetual against GM Dervishi (2538). Bator didn't want a draw and went for it. Perhaps with perfect play he could have obtained some advantage but in practice his play with the open king was way too dangerous and he suffered yet another painful loss. Nikolay tied the match by defeating a 2437 IM with black. Eric showed that just earning a GM title wasn't all he was aiming for and he finished things in style by defeating a 2400 IM. This left Edward on board 4. Edward had a seemingly equal game against a 2292 opponent. The game became more tactical as they entered an endgame with both sides pushing pawns on opposite sides of the board. Unfortunately, Edward's a-pawn was not fast enough and he succumbed to a painful loss. As a result Canada finished in 52nd place one ahead of their starting position.

While the Olympiad is a team event, we pretty much have to single out the outstanding performance by Eric Hansen. He had the best result of the team with 7.5/10 and an astronomical performance rating of 2646. Eric's rating is now over 2520 and considering his recent results he probably won't stop there. Edward's result was somewhat disappointing as he finished with 3.5/7 and a performance of 2251. Perhaps having to sit out so many times affected his play, in either case let's hope that he returns to his usual level in the near future. The Olympiad's Open section was won by Armenia who finished ahead of Russia on tie-breaks. This was an improbable third win for Armenia in four Olympiads which sparked a grand celebration in the small Caucasian country. Bronze went to the 2010 champions Ukraine who defeated China in the last round, as Vassily Ivanchuk created a brilliant rook sacrifice on board 1. The Women's Olympiad was won by Russia for the second Olympiad in a row. They edged out the Chinese on tie-breaks. Ukraine finished with the bronze in that section as well. Canada was ranked 59th at the start and finished 64th. Before I finish I would once again like to draw everyone's attention to the fact that having 2 Albertan's on a team is a great success by itself for our province and as for the future, well in two years Richard Wang will be 15...

The following game essentially secured

the GM title for Eric. After 40 moves it seems that the position is about equal, but now Eric shows nice technique as he outplays a strong IM.

IM Eric Hansen (2472) - IM Kirill Kuderinov (2484) [C97]

Chess Olympiad Istanbul TUR (9.29),



41.Qd2 Be8 42.Bh5 Bd7 43.Be2 Nf4
44.Nh5 Nxh5 45.Bxh5 Kf8 46.Qe3 Ke7
47.h4 h6 48.hxg5 hxg5 49.Qc1 Qa2
50.Kg3 Kd8 51.Kg2 Kc7 52.Kg3 Qa8
53.Kg2 Qh8 54.Qh1 Qa8 55.Qc1 Kb7
56.Kg3 Qh8 57.Qh1 g4 58.Qh4 Qh6
59.Qxg4 Qc1 60.Qf3 Qg1+ 61.Kh3 Kc7
62.Qg2 Qc1 63.Qf3 Qf1+ 64.Kh2 Kd8
65.Qe2 Qc1 66.Qe3 Qf1 67.Bf7 Ke7
68.Be6 Be8 69.Qb6 Bd7 70.Qa7 Kf8
71.Bxd7 1-0

Calgary Chess Club schedule:

Tuesdays: Standard time controls (90+30) each tournament starts on the first Tuesday of the month. \$5 per week entry fee 80% going to prizes. CFC rated. Doors open at 7 pm.

Thursdays: unrated Active chess, one tournament per week. \$5 entry fee. Doors open at 7 pm.

Saturday: Junior drop in centre. Free with a purchase of an annual junior club membership \$20. Doors open at 12:30 pm.

Sunday: Rated Active tournaments on selected Sundays. See the website for full details.

www.calgarychess.com





Photo: monroi.com

Eric Hansen wins 2012 Canadian Open

By Vlad Rekhson

This year the annual Canadian Open event took place in Victoria, BC on July 8-13th. The relative proximity drew quite a lot of players from our province who competed in all three of the tournament's sections which included the Open, the U-2000 and the U-1600. Furthermore, due to the increased general level of play by our top players, coupled with the relative absenteeism of top players from Central Canada; it seemed that about half of the boards in the Open section were occupied by Albertans.

When it was all said and done, the top spot went to IM Eric Hansen from Calgary, who scored 7.5/9 earning him a prize of \$2000. On the way to victory Eric defeated the two GMs that he faced, Victor Mikhalevski and Eugene Perelshteyn.

This marks the second time in four years that an Albertan won, or tied for first. The previous success belonged to IM Edward Porper who tied for first in the 2009 edition of the event held in Edmonton.

While second place went to American GM Eugene Perelshteyn with 7/9, there was a large tie for third place with 6.5/9. The tie included Edmontonians FM Richard Wang and IM Edward Porper. Richard deserves a special mention as he had a fantastic

event and was the only player to defeat Eric Hansen. He showed an IM norm performance, but failed to obtain it on a mere technicality as he needed to face one more titled opponent. A special mention needs to go to Alex Yam who started well, but faltered at the finish to score 5.5/9. Albertans Jeff Reeve and Daniel Kazmaier produced similar scores in the top section. Other noteworthy results include: Calgarian Yassen Bogoev who tied for 5th in the u-2000 section with 6/9 and Edmonton junior Lenard Grossman who scored 5/9 in the u-1600 section. Lenard started very well, but perhaps a lack of experience at such large events brought his results down towards the end. Next year's Canadian Open and CYCC will take place in Ottawa.

IM Hansen, Eric (2447)- GM Perelshteyn, Eugene (2542)

2012 Canadian Open Chess Championship Victoria (6), 10.07.2012

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.Be2 Na6 7.0-0 e5 8.Be3 Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bh4 Nh6 11.Qd2 Nf7 12.Rad1 g5 13.Bg3 g4 14.Ne1 Bh6 15.Qc2 Nb4 16.Qb3 Nc6 17.Nc2 f5 18.exf5 Bxf5 19.dxe5 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 Nxe5 21.c5 Bg7 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.Nd5 Kh8 24.Qb3 Qd7 25.Ne3 Rac8 26.Rd5 Rc5 27.Rfd1 Rxd5 28.Qxd5 Rc8 29.Qe4 Qc6 30.Qf5 Rf8 31.Qb1 Qd7 32.Qe4 Qc6 33.Qb4 h5 34.Nf5 Qc2 35.Nd4 Qe4 36.Bf1 Bf6 37.Re1 Qd5 38.Nf5 Rc8 39.Ne3 Qxa2

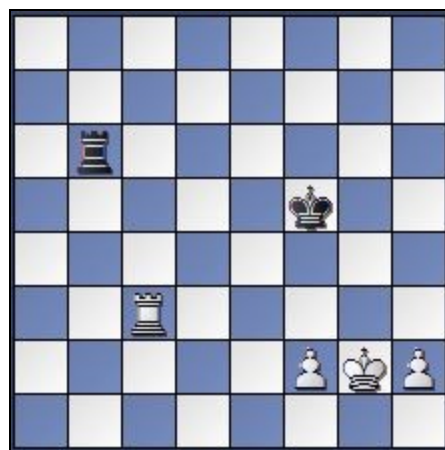
40.Qxb7 Rf8 41.Rd1 Qe6 42.Ra1 h4 43.Bxe5 Bxe5 44.Bc4 Qg6 45.Qe7 Kg7 46.Rxa7 g3 47.Qxh4 gxh2+ 48.Kh1 d5 49.Bf1 Bxb2 50.Qh3 Bf6 51.Bd3



1-0

Hansen, Eric - Mikhalevski, Victor

2012 Canadian Open Chess Championship Victoria (7), 11.07.2012



55...Rb4 56.h3 Rb1 57.Rg3 Rb4 58.Rg8 Rb3 59.h4 Kf6 60.f3 Rb4 61.Rg4 Rb2+ 62.Kg3 Rb1

With this move Victor throws away the draw. He needed to be able to keep the rook in the position to check the king laterally if he gets to the 4th rank. After this move Eric converts the win in a confident fashion.

63.h5 Rh1 64.Rh4 Rg1+ 65.Kf4 Rg8 66.h6 Rf8 67.Kg4 Rg8+ 68.Kh3 Rh8 69.h7 Kg5 70.Kg3 Kf5 71.Rh5+ Kf6 72.Kf4 Kg6 73.Kg4 Kf6 74.Rh6+ Kf7 75.Kg5 Kg7 76.Rg6+ Kf7 77.Kh6 Ra8 78.Rg7+ 1-0



Photo: Monroi.com

Albertans excel at the 2012 Canadian Youth Chess Championships

By Vlad Rekhson

The Canadian Youth Chess Championship took place in Surrey, BC this year on July 3-6.

As usual, the event included a total of 12 sections. Those were u-8, u-10, u-12, u-14, u-16 and u-18 age categories in both “open” and “girls” categories. The Alberta Chess Association sends the winners of the “open” section in our province. This year we sent 5 representatives, as the u-18 winner David Zhang elected not to attend the event. Additionally, the Alberta u-16 champion in the “Open” category, Nicka Kalaydina elected to play in the “girls” section nationally.

In addition to the provincial winners which are sent by the Alberta Chess Association, several juniors made their way to BC on their own and in fact succeeded in scoring some very good results.

This year our representatives did quite well, they achieved a total of two first places and several other very positive results.

In the u-8 open section, Calgarian Ian Zhao finished 6th in a field of 25 with

4.5/7. In the u-10 open section Calgarian Patrick Angelo Tolentino tied for fourth in a field of 40 with 5/7. In the u-12 open section Calgarian Nicholas Lee tied for third in a field of 44! That is a great result for Nicholas’ first national event. A fellow Calgarian, Andre Tolentino scored 3/7 in the same section.

Undoubtedly, the most successful section for Alberta was the u-14 open. The heavy favourite going into the event was Edmontonian, FM Richard Wang. Despite a couple of early stumbles Richard won first with 6/7. A real pleasant surprise came to the second Alberta representative. Calgarian Diwen Shi is not very fortunate as he has to compete against Richard in the provincial age category, but perhaps the competition is proving to be fruitful as just like in the Provincial event, Diwen Shi finished behind Richard in clear second with 5.5/7! It was quite pleasant to see two Albertans top the field of 25! Veronicka Regina (Nicka) Kalaydina was the class of the field in the u-16 girls as she scored 5/6 and earned the top spot with over a point to spare ahead of the second place. Congratulations to Nicka on her 5th national victory!

The winners of each section will now be sponsored by the CFC for the 2012 World Youth which will take place in Slovenia in November.



Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Paul Viminitz
Email vimp0@uleth.ca

Pemican Lodge 102 5th Avenue South
(on the second floor in the games room)
6:00pm until 9 or 10pm

Medicine Hat Chess Club
Next Step Residential Services Building
Rm. 5, 826 - 11th St. S.E.
Wednesdays
mid-September to mid-June

Contact: Bill Taylor 403.526.5484
403.527.3574,
taylorwmw@shaw.ca

2012 Edmonton Fall Sectional

Edmonton Chess Club
#204 10840 124 St.
T5M-0H3



Dates: October 26-28, 2012
Six Player Round Robins
All sections CFC rated top section FIDE Rated

CFC membership required, can be purchased onsite

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. **Full refund is available if requested before October 22.**

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 at the address above.

Registration: **No on site registration. You must pay to register. Official registration closes on Monday, October 22.** 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 25th, or as early as Monday, October 22nd if sections are set.

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 six player section guaranteed.

1st: \$100, 2nd: \$50

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



Richard Wang becomes Alberta's newest IM at the Canadian Closed Zonal

By Vlad Rekhson

A couple of years ago I challenged 11 year old Richard Wang to become an International Master before he turns 14. This was definitely not easy to achieve and earlier this year, few thought that it would be possible; however, Richard has shown a clear improvement in 2012. First, he got his FIDE rating over 2300 earning him an FM title he then performed quite well at the Calgary International and at the Canadian Open, where he missed an IM norm on a mere technicality. Luckily, we have the Canadian Closed Zonal which offers a special way to obtain the title. Every time the Canadian Zonal is held, one IM title can be awarded to a player who does not yet possess this title, as long as he scores at least 6/9. Over the years it allowed some relatively low rated players to obtain the title which made the rule somewhat controversial. Going into this year's event, Alberta had not one but two IM title hopefuls. In addition to Alberta champion Richard Wang who was sponsored by the ACA, FM Vladimir Pechenkin also made the trip, sponsorship of which was provided by the ECC due to Vlad's victory in the Edmonton Championship. It was clear that both Albertans would have an excellent chance to place high in the championship and perhaps attain the desired IM title. The tournament this year was held in Montreal on August 4-11. The event which was held in a Swiss system, attracted a total of 36 participants. It included GMs Bator Sambuev and Anton Kovalyov, who still technically represents Argentina but is in the process of switching federations. A total of 4 IMs

also took part in the competition which in addition to determining the national champion, serves as a way to determine Canada's representative in the World Cup of chess. Now let's get back to our guys, Richard got off to a disastrous start as he lost to Louis Robichaud (2100) in the first round. While such a terrible start could bring down many, Richard was certainly not one to get down on himself. He quickly recovered and in fact did not lose any more games in the event. FM Pechenkin had a good start and even with a third round loss against GM Sambuev he was deep in the mix for the IM title going all the way to the end. The last round saw quite a bit of drama as far as titles were concerned. IM Wang was leading the non-IM pack with 5.5 points. Of course he needed at least 6 to be in contention; the problem was that his last round opponent was the highest rated event participant, GM Anton Kovalyov (2605). Richard played confidently and Anton did not want to tempt his fate against an up and coming talent especially, since he already lost all hope for first so a draw was agreed fairly quickly. A total of 4 non-IMs and two IMs had 5 points meaning that had they won, a playoff for the title would be needed. Qin Zi Yi (Joey) drew against FM Robert Hamilton thus eliminating both of them from the title contention. FM Vladimir Pechenkin (2334) had white against Nikita Gusev (2117). On paper this was a good match-up for Vlad and we could already salivate for a potential of an all Edmonton play-off for the IM title, but Nikita played quite well. The game seemed to be going for a draw which Vlad offered. Surprisingly Nikita declined the draw and then proceeded to play extremely well to win the game. Despite the disappointing last round loss, I hope that Vlad uses this experience to help him achieve the IM title in the near future. This meant that a play-off would be needed between Richard Wang and Nikita Gusev. Nikita is a junior and played quite well performing at a level of 2317; This earned him one of the FM titles up for grabs in this tournament, but giving a player with his rating an IM title would be quite controversial to say the least. Luckily, Richard left no place for doubt as he confidently dispatched Nikita in a one game rapid chess play-off match. With this, Richard became the youngest ever Albertan to earn the IM title at the age of 13 years and 11 months. This is

only a few months short of the national record set by Canada's highest rated player, GM Mark Bluvshstein. Certainly a good company to be in! As for the Championship, it was won in a very convincing style by GM Bator Sambuev who ran through the field with a perfect 8/8 before settling for a quick last round draw. Second went to GM Anton Kovalyov with 7/9. The third prize was split four ways between FM Richard Wang, IM Nikolay Noritsyn, IM Leonid Gerzhoy and Nikita Gusev with 6/9 each.

Gusev, Nikita (2117) - Wang, Richard (2338) [B38]

CAN-ch playoff-1 Montreal CAN (1), 11.08.2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be2 d6 9.f3 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.0-0 Rc8 12.b3 Qa5 13.Qd3 a6 14.Rfd1 Nd7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.exd5 Rfe8 18.f4 Qc5+ 19.Kh1 Nf6 20.a3 a5 21.Rdb1 e5



22.dxe6 Rxe6 23.Bf3 b6 24.Qd2 Rce8 25.h3 Re3 26.b4 axb4 27.axb4 Qf5 28.Bc6 R8e6 29.Rf1 Rd3 30.Qb2 Ree3 31.Rae1 Rxe1 32.Rxe1 Qxf4 33.Qa1 Qxc4 34.Rf1 Qc3 0-1

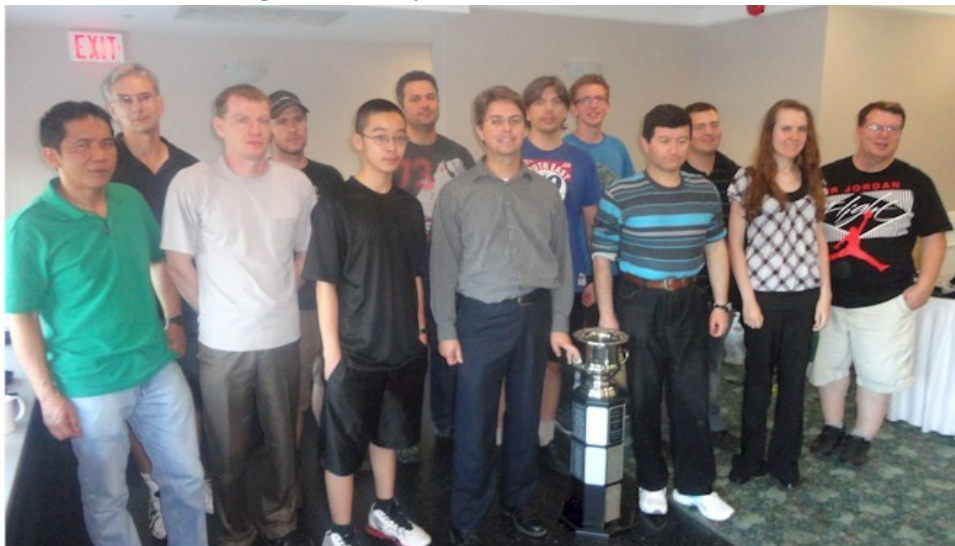
Alberta Chess Association AGM

Location: Calgary Chess Club
274 3359 27th St. NE

Time: October 7, 2012 2:30 pm
(after rd. 3 of AB Open).

Board positions at stake:

Vice-President (2 years)
Secretary (2 years)
Four Directors (2 years)
One Director (1 year)



Winning team North. From left to right: Belsar Valencia, Jeff Reeve, Vladimir Pechenkin, Nic Haynes, Richard Wang, Sasa Grumic, Micah Hughey, Peter Kalisvaart, David Miller, Edward Porper, Marc Sicotte, Anastasia Kazakevich, Tim Pradzinski

On board two, IM elect Richard Wang won two convincing games against NM Daniel Kazmaier. On board three FM Vladimir Pechenkin (North) defeated the current Canadian Junior champion NM David Zhang with the score of 1.5-0.5. Board 4 had an unpleasant incident right from the get-go. NM Nic Haynes (North) sat down to play against FM Dale Haessel (South). They barely made 11 moves when Nic's Ipod started making sounds. This unfortunately, ended the game. Dale also went on to win game two. On board five two veteran NMs were the counterparts. Jeff Reeve (North) emerged victorious against Knut Neven with a score of 1.5-0.5. On board 6 we saw two interesting battles between NMs Belsar Valencia (North) and the new Calgarian, who recently moved from Nova Scotia, Gary Ng. Both games ended in a draw.

Board 7 saw another new Calgarian, Siarhei Leuchanka, who is a newcomer from Belarus and rated 2227 FIDE playing his first regular time control game against the always aggressive, NM Sasa Grumic. In the first game, just as it appeared like Siarhei was pulling through he showed the damage that being rusty can caused and allowed his time to expire. In the second game Siarhei made no such error and defeated Sasa to tie their encounter.

Board 8 featured the only representative of the ladies, as Anastasia Kazakevich (North) came back to chess after an absence of several years and took on NM Martin Robichaud (South). The South hoped that Martin would have a relatively easy game against the rusty Anastasia, but she proved to play quite well. The first game was drawn and it appeared that Anastasia was even better in the second, but maybe that is when the rust finally came into affect and Martin was able to outplay her.

North takes the 2012 Battle of AB

By Vlad Rekhson

The annual Battle of Alberta event is a competition between top 12 players from the North and top 12 from the South in the Province of Alberta. The dividing line is the river in the town of Red-Deer, which is also the town where the competition takes place. Each player plays two games against his counterpart from the other team, with the board order being determined by rating in advance.

As captains, Jim Daniluk (south) and Micah Hughey (north) exchanged teams it became clear that the North would have some advantage, which was felt the most on the top boards. The North's top 3 boards were all rated over 2400 CFC and included 2 IMs (Edward Porper and the newly minted IM, Richard Wang). The South on the other hand, had no players that reached such a landmark rating, with IM Eric Hansen being in Europe the top board was supposed to be defended by NM Alex Yam.

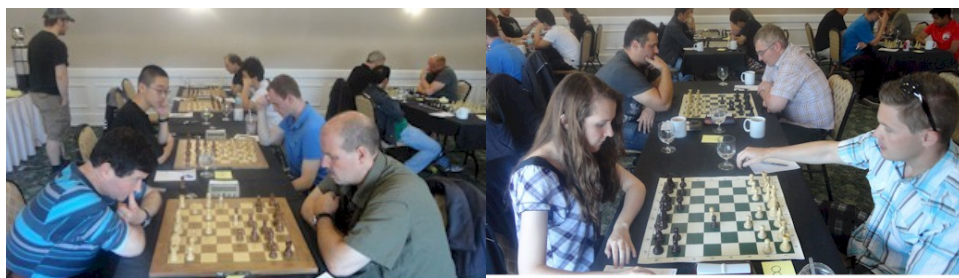
The South's hope lay in the middle boards where they had some rating advantage, and on board 12 which stirred quite a bit of controversy.

Normally the team captains would arrange teams in order of rating, selecting the top 12 players, from either North or South of the province; however, this typically means that the two largest cities, Edmonton, Calgary and their suburbs often take all the spots. A new rule came into

effect this year, allowing up to two players who don't come from the Edmonton/Calgary regions to play, provided that their rating is at least 1900.

The South had no players who would meet the 1900 criteria, but the North had a few. While a couple of them would have made the team anyway, Tim Pradzinski from Grande-Prairie had a rating of just over 1900 which wouldn't have been good enough to make the team by normal means. His inclusion, sparked some strong debate among the Edmontonians, regarding the fairness of this rule. In the tournament, Tim didn't score any points, but I believe that he did give his all for the team. It remains to be seen whether this rule will once again be used next year.

Going back to the match, one unpleasant surprise that the South got on its way to Red-Deer was that its top board, NM Alex Yam had to withdraw due to illness. This meant that a substitute had to step into board one. Captain Jim Daniluk bravely stepped in but he stood no chance against the mighty IM Edward Porper.



On board 9 we saw another newcomer to the Province as Marc Sicotte who previously played in Quebec played his first CFC rated games. Marc currently lives in Fort McMurray, although he will be moving to Edmonton shortly. Despite not playing rated games for several years, Marc showed good form and won both his games against Erik Tam (South). On board 10 I was going to take on my good friend and rival, Northern captain NM Micah Hughey. In the first game I made an opening error and lost a pawn. Then I gave up another pawn which lead to a drawn opposite colour bishop endgame. Since there was no risk, Micah kept on playing, and playing until all the chances were exhausted, thus the game took about 4.5 hours and lasted almost 80 moves, but ended in a draw. Afterwards, Micah made a strategic decision to substitute himself by a slightly lower rated NM Peter Kalisvaart. Peter used to have his rating over 2200 but his recent results weren't very good, which brought it down to lower 2000s. Still, I knew that Peter is a good player and he was certainly fresher than me. I once again butchered the opening stage, losing a pawn, but somehow managed to hold on for a draw. On board 11, David Miller (North) who recently moved to Edmonton from Grande-Prairie, was able to defeat Arth Dizon in both games.

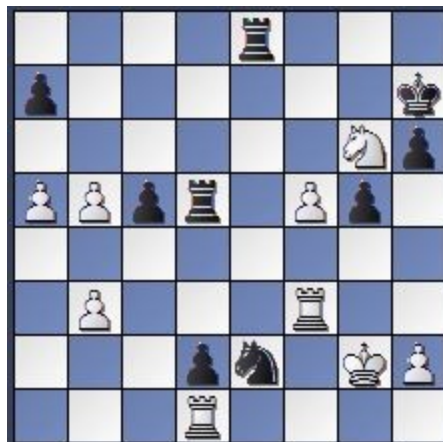


On board 12, as mentioned earlier, the South won both games, with Behrooz Ebrahim-Shirazi defeating Tim Pradzinski. All in all it was once again a very fun event. I would like to congratulate team North on retaining the trophy that they also won last year. The final score of the match this year was 14.5-9.5. The total score after 17 battles is 9-8 in North's favour. The South shall attempt to rise again next year!

Kazmaier, Daniel (2307) - Wang, Richard (2468) [A37]
Battle of Alberta 2012 Red Deer (2.2),

18.08.2012

1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.g3 e5 4.Nc3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.e4 0-0 8.d3 f5 9.a3 d6 10.Nd5 h6 11.Ne1 Nd4 12.f4 exf4 13.gxf4 fxe4 14.dxe4 b5 15.Nxe7+ Qxe7 16.cxb5 Bb7 17.a4 Bxe4 18.Ra3 Bxg2 19.Nxg2 Qf7 20.Rd3 Nf5 21.b3 Rfe8 22.Kh1 Bd4 23.Qf3 d5 24.Be3 Re4 25.Bxd4 Nxd4 26.Qd1 Qf6 27.Rg3 Kh7 28.Re1 Rae8 29.Rf1 Ne2 30.Rgf3 Qf5 31.Qd3 d4 32.a5 R4e6 33.Qc4 Rd6 34.Nh4 Qd5 35.Qxd5 Rxd5 36.f5 g5 37.Ng6 d3 38.Rd1 d2 39.Kg2



After 39. Kg2

Nc3 40.Rxc3 Re1 41.Rxc5 Rxc5 42.Rxd2 Rxf5 43.Nf8+ Rxf8 44.Rd7+ Kg6 45.Rxa7 Re2+ 0-1

Photos in this article were provided by: Ali Razzaq

Fort McMurray Chess Club

Fort McMurray Chess Club is open at Westwood Family YMCA: 221 Tundra Drive.

Every Thursday for adults 6PM -10PM and for kids every Saturday 1-4PM.

For more information call Jina at: 780.715.9332 or e-mail at: swp@shaw.ca



RIP Cor Dewindt (March 22, 1936 - August 19, 2012)

By John Quiring

Cor was a mainstay of the chess club for many years. He seemed to play in every tournament at the club, and I saw him frequently in tournaments all around Alberta. His last tournament was about 5 years ago; in his later years he was unable to drive and his wife Deet's death ended his ability to travel.

Cor was a dairy farmer out near Thorhild, and this tells you everything you need to know: he had to drive over an hour to play chess, and back in the day when such statistics were published, there were years when he was among the most active players IN CANADA.

Cor served multiple terms as both Treasurer and President of the ECC and directed tournaments as well. It's always good to remember that the club we have today didn't appear by magic, it was built over the years by good people like Cor.

Cor's obituary can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/9ew57nf>

Dewindt, Cor - Tsui, Alick [B22]

CAN-op Edmonton, CAN (3), 09.07.2000
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.cxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.Bxf6 Nxf6 8.Be2 Qa5 9.f3 e5 10.d5 Be7 11.Qa4+ Qxa4 12.Nxa4 Nd7 13.Bd3 b5 14.Nc3 Nc5 15.Bc2 0-0 16.Nge2 b4 17.Na4 Nxa4 18.Bxa4 Bh4+ 19.g3 Bd8 20.0-0 Bh3 21.Rfc1 Bb6+ 22.Kh1 Be5 23.Ng1 Bc8 24.Ne2 Ra7 25.Kg2 a5 26.Rc2 Ba6 27.Nc1 f5 28.Nb3 Bd3 29.Rxc5! dxc5 30.Nxc5 Be2 31.Be6 Raf7 32.d6 fxe4 33.fxe4 Rf2+ 34.Kg1 Rd2 35.d7 Rd6 36.Bd5+ Kh8 37.Rc1 Rxd5 38.exd5 Bf5



Ng/Rekhson take Calgary Summer Open

By: Vlad Rekhson

There was somewhat of a break in terms of the weekend events in Calgary. The last one took place during the Victoria Long Weekend (Calgary International and the next one was scheduled to be the Alberta Open on Thanksgiving long weekend. As a result I decided to organize an impromptu event on the weekend of July 21, 22. A total of 21 players took part in the 5 round event. In addition to Calgarians, Rick Pedersen, Richard Pua and David Miller made their way from Edmonton while Pat Porter came from Lethbridge.

NM Gary Ng and I shared first. We scored 4/5 each but didn't get a chance to face each other. Third place was shared by NM Roy Yearwood, Rick Pedersen (who recovered after a tough start) and Pat Porter who won the best under 1900 prize with 3.5/5 each.

Second in the best under 1900 category went to Samer Louise who scored 3/5.

Best under 1600 was won by the Alberta under 8 champion Ian Zhao who is only rated 971! Ian scored 3/5.

Best under 1200 went to Raphael Libre who scored 2/5.

The following game included some pretty crazy looking sacrifices. After checking the game with the computer it appeared that both David and I played quite well, with the only possible improvement being

22. Qh3 instead of Qd6 which was also quite decent.

Rekhson, Vladislav (2141) - Miller, David (2057) [B53]

2012 Calgary Summer Open CCC (4.1),

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bg5 e6 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.Qd3 a6 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.f4 Qc7 13.Kb1 h6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Rhe1 b5 16.Nf5!?



b4 17.e5 fxe5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.Nxe7 bxc3 20.Ng6 Qb7 21.b3 Bb5 22.Qd6 Rg8 23.Nxe5 Qe7 24.a4 Qxd6 25.Rxd6 Ke7 26.Rd4 f6 27.axb5 fxe5 28.Ra4 axb5 29.Rxa8 Rxa8 30.Rxe5 Rd8 31.Rxb5 Rd1+ 32.Ka2 Rc1 33.b4 Rxc2+ 34.Kb3 Rxc2 35.Rh5 c2 36.Kb2 Kd6 37.Rxh6 Kd5 ½-½

FM Richard Wang wins 2012 Trumpeter Classic

By Vlad Rekhson

FM Richard Wang was a special guest at this year's Trumpeter Classic in Grande-Prairie. The tournament was moved from its traditional time of end of January to June which was surely appreciated by the out of town participants. Besides playing in the event, Richard conducted a lecture and a simul for all those in attendance on Friday night.

In the tournament itself Richard was the class of the field finishing with a perfect 5/5. Second went to a local junior, who was just about to move to Edmonton, David Miller.

Richard Wang's attendance at the Trumpeter was made possible with the support of the ACA. To help promote the event it was decided to send the Alberta champion who just happened to be Richard.

Open Section

- 1st - FM Richard Wang 5/5 - \$350
- 2nd - David Miller - 3.5/5 - \$170
- 3rd - Tim Pradzinski & Wade Caughlin 3/5 - \$25 each

Under 1800

- 1st - Archie Robertson - 3/5 - \$125
- 2nd - Chris White, Phil Lefkowitz & Steve Panteluk - 2.5 /5 - \$33 each

Under 1500

- 1st - Stan Longson 2/5 - My System (book) by Aaron Nimzowitsch

Biggest Upset Prize

Stan Longson for beating Archie Robertson in Round 1 - \$50



Congratulations to Micah and Leah Hughey!

An Edmonton player and organizer Micah Hughey got married this summer to Leah White. The wedding took place in a small ceremony in downtown Edmonton. A number of chess players attended it. From left to right: Anastasia Kazakevich, Rob Brazeau, Leah Hughey, Micah Hughey, Vlad Rekhson and Mike Zeggelaar

Congratulations and a long and happy life together to the newly-weds!



2012 ACA Tournament Schedule

All tournaments subject to change by the ACA and/or Organizer.

For updated info, visit our website: www.albertachess.org/

Tournaments noted with a star are eligible for Road Warrior Points.



| Date | Event | Organizer | Location |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Oct 6-8 | Alberta Open* | Frank Kluytmans | Calgary |
| Oct 26-28 | Edmonton Fall Sectional* | Rick Pedersen | Edmonton |
| Nov 3-4 | Alberta Junior Championship | Richard Pua | Edmonton |
| Nov 17-18 | Southern Alberta Open* | Frank Kluytmans | Calgary |
| Dec 2 | Christmas Youth Open | Frank Kluytmans | Calgary |
| Dec 15-16 | WBX Team Tournament* | FA Ali Razaq | Edmonton |

TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As Of September 19, 2012

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|------|
| 1 | GM Hansen, Eric | 2579 |
| 2 | IM Porper, Edward | 2475 |
| 3 | IM Wang, Richard | 2459 |
| 4 | FM Pechenkin, Vladimir | 2436 |
| 5 | NM Yam, Alex | 2373 |
| 6 | FM Gicev, Blagoj | 2370 |
| 7 | NM Gardner, Robert J. | 2353 |
| 8 | NM Reeve, Jeff | 2314 |
| 9 | NM Valencia, Belsar | 2301 |
| 10 | NM Kazmaier, Daniel | 2299 |
| 11 | FM Haessel, Dale | 2295 |
| 12 | NM Zhang, David | 2283 |
| 13 | NM Haynes, Nicolas | 2282 |
| 14 | Nguyen, Kim | 2228 |
| 15 | NM Grumic, Sasa | 2227 |
| 16 | NM Neven, Knut | 2227 |
| 17 | Booker, Brad | 2214 |
| 18 | NM Robichaud, Martin | 2205 |
| 19 | Gluckie, Jamin | 2200 |
| 20 | Miller, David | 2180 |
| 21 | Tam, Erik | 2153 |
| 22 | NM Rekhson, Vladislav | 2152 |
| 23 | Perron, Sean | 2146 |
| 24 | NM Yearwood, Roy | 2129 |
| 25 | Kostadinov, Georgi | 2121 |
| 26 | Kazakevich, Anastasia | 2113 |
| 27 | Willis, Bradley J. | 2100 |
| 28 | Wen, Jean-Francois | 2098 |
| 29 | Gold, Itohan | 2083 |
| 30 | Ottosen, David | 2083 |
| 31 | NM Hughey, Micah | 2068 |
| 32 | Sequillion, Aaron | 2055 |
| 33 | Daniluk, Jim | 2053 |
| 34 | Ebrahim-Shirazi, Behrooz | 2051 |
| 35 | Beaudry, Lukas | 2047 |
| 36 | Tot, Nandor | 2044 |
| 37 | Zeggelaar, Mike | 2031 |
| 38 | NM Kalisvaart, Peter | 2016 |
| 39 | Pua, Richard | 2004 |
| 40 | Kalaydina, Regina-Veronica | 1988 |

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

AS OF September 1, 2012

| | | |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 1 | GM Hansen, Eric | 2502 |
| 2 | IM Porper, Edward | 2420 |
| 3 | IM Wang, Richard | 2361 |
| 4 | FM Pechenkin, Vladimir | 2333 |
| 5 | FM Gicev, Blagoj | 2305 |
| 6 | NM Yam, Alex | 2267 |
| 7 | NM Gardner, Robert J. | 2236 |
| 8 | NM Reeve, Jeff | 2233 |
| 9 | NM Leuchanka, Sjarhei | 2221 |
| 10 | NM Valencia, Belsar | 2214 |

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.
Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday from 12:30-5 pm.
phone: 403.264.9498
website: www.calgarychess.com

Calgary Junior Chess Club
Contact: Paul Gagne
email: paul.gagne@cssd.ab.ca
website: www.calgarychess.com

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 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
phone: 780.424.0283
website: www.edmontonchessclub.org

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

Fort McMurray Chess Club
Westwood Family YMCA: 221 Tundra Drive. Thursday for adults 6PM -10PM and for kids every Saturday 1-4PM. For more information call Jina at: 780.715.9332 or e-mail at: swp@shaw

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

Red Deer Chess
Contact: Alexey Taranik phone: 403-8721062 email: taranik1978@yahoo.ca

La Crete Chess Club
Contact: Chris White
H: (780)9283523 W: (780)9283632
email: fagandrivepark@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 vimip0@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
826 - 11th St. S.E 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: vrekhsen@yahoo.ca for more information



Contact us:
Tim Pradzinski 780-518-2281
Email database@telusplanet.net
www.gpchessclub.com

Calgary Chess Club



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

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

National Master Roy Yearwood

Calgary, AB

Chess lessons for all

A meeting with either a youth or adult student will include a goal setting session and evaluation test in order to find out where you want to go with the lessons as well as your foundation of knowledge. I think that this will help in you in getting the knowledge you need in order to play an enjoyable game of chess. This session is free and included in your lesson package.

Lesson packages are available in groups of 3, 5 and 10 sessions.

Sessions will cover topics such as position evaluation and move selection, practice in the use of tactics, analysis of your games where possible.

My rates are \$30/hr. for adults, \$20/hr. for youth (under 18) School instruction \$15/hr. per student participant with a min. of 8 participants in the class and the purchase of the 5 session package.

Participation in all sessions assumes a complete knowledge of the moves and rules of the game. If you need help in this regard you can go to www.chesskids.com and watch the video and do the introductory lessons there. School sessions will include the introduction of new material on openings and middlegame strategy and evaluation tests where necessary, a tournament where games played and recorded will be analysed and possibly rated by both The Chess Federation of Canada and The Chess and Maths Association of Canada.

I have had a recent Criminal records check with the Calgary Police Service, so if school sessions are desired, that area of security is no problem.

I realize that each of us learns a skill in our own way so instruction will include lots of questions and answers so participants should be self motivated confident and willing to give their ideas about what's going on in a position if asked. Chess when played with knowledge is quite enjoyable and challenging. I sincerely hope that I can help you in getting that knowledge. Contact me by email for more information.

fredandorroy@live.ca



Play Chess in Alberta's Universities!

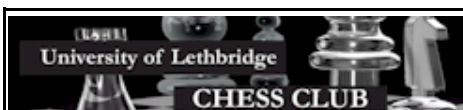


UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

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

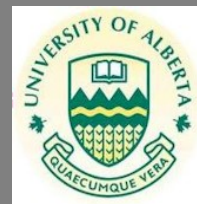
Website

<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/>



2012 Alberta Open Championship

October 6-8

Calgary Chess Club, #274 3359 27th St. NE T1Y 5E4

Tournament Director: Frank Kluytmans fekluytmans@gmail.com

Phone: 403-999-2092



CFC & FIDE rated. CFC membership is required, can be purchased at site.

Your CFC membership must be paid prior to round 1.

Minimum Guaranteed Prize Fund \$1,000
(Estimated at \$1400 based on 40 paid entries)

\$400 first prize guarantee

Prizes increased with entries

Format: 6 round swiss.

Time Control: Game in 90/40 + 30 minutes, 30 seconds increment from move 1.

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

Byes: A maximum of 2 half point byes available in the first 5 rounds. All byes must be registered before the start of round 1.

Entry Fee: Free entry to GMs & IMs. All others pay \$40 if received by October 1st. \$45 after October 1st. Advanced entries can pay at either the Calgary Chess Club or the Edmonton Chess Club or mail a cheque, payable to the Calgary Chess Club to the address above.

Mail entries should include your full name, address, email address and phone number.

Cash only after October 1st!

Advanced entries will be posted on our website

www.albertachess.org/2012AO.html

Space is limited to 52 players on a first come, first serve basis

Onsite registration (if space is still available) on Saturday, October 6th from 9 am to 9:45 am.

The ACA AGM will take place on Sunday, October 7th at 2:30 pm in the skittles room of the Calgary Chess Club.

The winner qualifies to the 2013 Alberta Closed (if an Albertan).

All equipment is supplied. Snacks and beverages available for purchase at site. Coffee is FREE

This is a *Road Warrior* event

Sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association

