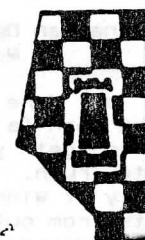




ALBERTA CHESS REPORT



Volume 10, Number 3

June, 1985

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(Editors: I. Loadman & L. Steele)

1985 CANADIAN OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

♔ • JULY 13-21 • ♚

♘ Edmonton Convention Centre, Salons 10 - 14

\$7,000 Prize Fund, based on 150 entries
(minimum 90% of entry fees returned as prizes)

Entry Fee: \$65 regular/\$50 junior (born after
Sept. 1/67)

☆ ✓ [You are still encouraged
to enter in advance] ✓ ☆

Time Control: 40 moves/2 hours, then 20/hour

Schedule of Rounds

Late Registration: 11 am - 1 pm Sat. July 13
Opening Ceremonies: 4:30 pm Sat. July 13
Round 1: 5:00 pm Sat. July 13
Round 2: 10:00 am Sun. July 14
Round 3: 5:00 pm Sun. July 14
Rounds 4-8: 6:00 pm Mon. to Fri.
Round 9: 5:00 pm Sat. July 20
Round 10: 11:00 am Sun. July 21

(weekday rounds are all in the evening for
convenience of Edmonton and area residents)

Byes: One half-point bye is allowed in rounds
1-6 if the T.D. is notified in writing
at least 12 hours before the scheduled
start of the round.

NO SMOKING IN THE TOURNAMENT ROOM

A good selection of books and equipment will
be on sale during the tournament.

Watch the 1985 Canadian Closed, with some of
Canada's top players fighting it out.

1985 Canadian Open Speed Chess Championship
will be held on Saturday, July 20.

CFC Annual Meeting will be held during the
July 17 - July 19 period.

Grandmaster Abe Yanofsky, who is playing in
the Open, will give a simultaneous display on
20 boards on Saturday, July 13 at 10 a.m. The
fee to play is \$15 in advance (you can also
register on site at 9:30 am for \$10 and hope
a spot is still available -- don't count on
that!). Look for notices of other special
events staged during the course of the Open.

♚ Sample Prize Fund ♚
(based on 150 entries)

Open	Classes
1st -- \$1000	Expert
2nd -- 800	A/B/C/D
3rd -- 600	each
4th -- 400	1st -- \$350
5th -- 300	2nd -- 200
6th -- 200	
7th -- 100	Unrated: chess computer
8th -- 100	(value \$300+)
	Junior: chess library
	(value \$200+)

Top in each section will
also receive a trophy

Suggested Accommodation

Alberta Place Apartment Hotel is offering
a special rate for the tournament of from
\$47 single or double. It's within walking
distance of the Centre. Reserve at least
one month in advance, and mention the
chess championships. Call 403-423-1565
for information and reservations. Address
is: 10049-103 St, Edmonton, Alta T5J 2W7

Air Travel

Air Canada is the official airline of the
1985 Championships. For reservations and
call 1-800-361-7585 toll free. Mention
the 1985 Chess Championships as the title
of the convention.

≡ For more information, or to enter, write:

Alberta Chess Association
17956 - 57 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta
T6M 1P4
(403-487-9240)

Memberships: Alberta residents must be ACA
members. Nonmembers of the Chess Federation
of Canada must join or pay a \$10 rating fee.

Canadian Open and Closed 1985 -- Edmonton
More Facts of Interest

As of June 1st, 40 entries have been received for the Open (a reasonably good advance entry). Be sure to get your entry in soon to avoid the on-site rush. The entrants include IGM D.A. Yanofsky of Winnipeg and several other masters and experts from outside Alberta (note: Lionel Joyner, former Edmonton resident and one of Canada's highest rated players, has taken up chess again in the Vancouver area. Rumor has it he may be entering the Open).

Closed Notes: Igor Ivanov and 1984 runner-up Brian Hartman are among those who will be taking part in the Closed. Come watch some of Canada's best while you are playing in the Open!

For more details of the Open, see the front page.

If you can help make the Championships a success by donating a little of your time, please check the "Volunteers Needed" notice for more information.

 ★ **VOLUNTEERS N E E D E D!** ★

Persons willing to assist with the smooth operation the 1985 Canadian Chess Championships (July 13-21) are urgently requested to contact:

David Johansen
 17956-57 Ave

Edmonton, Alberta T6M 1P4

Assistance is required in several areas. A knowledgeable chess player is needed to run demonstration boards. Several persons are needed to assist with setup and cleanup activities, and one or more persons are required for other small tasks (operating a chess computer during the tournament, directing players to the right room and board, copying game scores for bulletins and the Alberta Chess Report, and any other task which may come up). Please help even if you have only a little time to spare (or even if you are an entrant -- there are still things you can help with before, during and/or after the tournaments). Only with the active assistance of volunteers can the Open be a success. Can we count on YOU?
 ■■

ACA MEMBERSHIP FEES

	One Year	Two Years
Senior	\$5.00	\$8.00
Junior (under 18)	\$3.00	\$5.00

Include the member's full name and address, and Chess Federation of Canada number (CFC memberships, available from the ACA, are an additional \$15 senior and \$8 junior per year.)

**REMINDER FOR TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS,
 CLUB OFFICIALS, AND ORGANIZERS**

Let us serve you. We want to advertise and report on your tournaments. **Please** send full details of upcoming events as far in advance as possible. **Please** send a copy of the final crosstable of your tournament (tiebreak order preferred) to us for publication. A **written report** (and some game scores) would be appreciated. The quality of our report on your tournament depends greatly on what you send to us.

ALBERTA CHESS CLUBS

(You are advised to check with a contact person to be sure that a club is open over the summer!)

Boyle Chess Club

Contact: Branco Georgijevic (689-2476)
 Box 303, Boyle, Alta TOA OMO
 Meets: Boyle Library
 Wednesdays 7:00-9:00

Black Knight Chess Club

Contact: Barney Fegyverneki (244-5814)
 #903, 1011-12 Ave SW, Calgary, Alta T2R OJ5
 Meets: Mount Royal College E-Library
 4825 Richard Rd SW
 Tuesdays at 7:30

Calgary Chess Club

Contacts: Brian Toth 273-1494
 Jim O'Neil 289-7103
 Bill Rusk (286-6137)
 9, 3302 50 St. NW, Calgary, Alta T3A 2C6
 Meets: Rosedale Community Hall
 800-11 Ave NW
 Wednesdays 7:00-11:00

Calgary Junior Chess Club

Contact: Sylvia Huber (286-1873)
 415 Dalmeny Hill NW, Calgary, Alta T3A 1T7
 Meets: Basement Wm Castell Library
 616 McLeod Trail SE
 On selected Saturdays.

University of Calgary Chess Club

Contact: Kevin Alperstein (271-3994)
 Graham Cooper (252-6352)
 Meets: Room 209, MacEwan Hall, U of Calgary

Edmonton Chess Club

Contact: David Johansen (487-9240)
 Gregory Shvartsburd (462-3107)
 7423-15 Ave, Edmonton, Alta T6K 2T3
 Meets: Conference Rooms, Commonwealth Stadium
 11000 Stadium Road
 Tuesdays 7:00-11:00

●NOTE: Closed during July/85 only

Edmonton Junior Chess Club

Contact: Rob Gardner (469-4925)
 Carol Miyagawa (483-8012)
 14316-92A Ave, Edmonton, Alta T5R 5E2
 Meets: Woodcroft Library Program Room
 13420-114 Ave
 6:30-9:00 on the last Wednesday
 of the month (note: Dec. 19 not 26)

Edmonton Informal Club

Players in Edmonton can always find an opponent on Saturday and Sunday afternoons on the second floor of the library at Sir Winston Churchill Square. Bring your own pieces. There are no dues, but you must leave when the library closes.
 Saturdays 1:00-6:00. Sundays 1:00-5:00.

Grande Prairie Chess Club

Contact: Peter Bongers (539-6764)
 7316 Poplar Drive, Grande Prairie, Alta T8V 5A6
 Meets: St. Patrick's Community School Library
 Thursdays 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Red Deer Chess Club

Contact: Paul Provost
 #304, 3821 Ross St, Red Deer, Alta T4N 1W1
 Meets: Red Deer Recreational Centre
 45 St and 47 Ave
 Tuesdays 7:00-11:00

Wabasca Chess Club

Contact: Dick Roberts (891-3804)
 12 Stump Hollow St, Wabasca, Alta TOG 2K0
 Meets: St. Theresa School Library

Alberta Grand Prix 1985

A new event on the chess scene is here. The Grand Prix '85 is providing some exciting competition and offers the chance to meet new challenges throughout the province. The prizes will be generated by a \$250 grant from the ACA and a \$1 per player fee from each event in the Grand Prix, with a total fund estimated to be over \$500 -- Open: 1st--50%, 2nd--25%; Under 1800 (as of Jan 1/85 ratings): 25% of prize fund.

Each player's score in an event will be prorated to six rounds (e.g. a score of 4 out of 6 remains as 4 points, but a score of 3.5 out of 5, will be worth 4.2 points on the "6 round basis"). There will be 9 tournaments in the Grand Prix series. A player's best 6 results will count toward his or her Grand Prix total (so you need not play in all events to have a shot at the big bucks). Grand Prix events are listed below (gaps in the list will be filled in as soon as possible -- organizers, please contact David Johansen if you can "fill in the blank"; his address is 17956-57 Ave, Edmonton T6M 1P4, and phone number 487-9240).

Grand Prix Events, 1985

Table listing Grand Prix events: Trumpeter Classic Grande Prairie (completed), Northern Alta Open Edmonton (completed), Cdn Clsd Qualifier Calgary (completed), Canada Day Open Edmonton Jun 29&30/Jul 1, Canadian Open Edmonton July 13-21, Over/Under 1800 Red Deer Aug 31/Sept 1&2, Alberta Open Edmonton Oct 12-14, Southern Alta Open Calgary Nov 30/Dec 1, ? Calgary ?

Leaders after the first two events are: 11.4--J. Reeve; 5.4--H. Johns; 4.8--R. Hawkes, F. Nelson, R. South, A. Zissos; 4.2--B. Bosenius, R. Gardner, J. Kanester, J. McIntyre, K. Salmon, R. Yearwood; 3.6--R. Dixon, M. Dougherty, G. Edwards, F. Hanchar, B. Palcic, P. Stephens, L. Stutzman, J. Williams. Etc.

**** JUNIOR CHESS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS ****

The ACA needs volunteers to assist in Junior Chess activities. If you are able to give some of your time to the next Bobby Fischer (and all of her friends) we need to know. We need people to help with: club activities; special events; coaching junior players; organizing. The pay is not great (in fact there is none), but the personal rewards are high. If you are able to share some of your experience, please contact:

- Sylvia Huber - Calgary Junior CC - 286-1873
Carol Miyagawa - Edmonton Junior CC - 483-8012

**** TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR KITS ****

The Alberta Chess Association has prepared TD Kits for Clubs and Organizers around the province. A TD Kit contains all supplies (except boards, pieces, clocks and players) needed to hold a 20-player Swiss. Kits can also be used to cover two 10-player tournaments. They contain: scoresheets, pairing cards, posting sheets, report forms for the ACA, ACR and CFC, as well as a sample prize and some instructions on how to hold the event. If you or your club would like some TD Kits, contact: Brian Toth, Calgary (273-1494), or Tracy Kolenchuk, Edmonton (425-9877)

Edmonton Phone Number for ACA
487-9240

**** RULES ** CHANGE ****

As of January 1, 1985, note that the CASTLING RULE has CHANGED:

"should a player, intending to castle, first touch his rook and then his king, that player MAY NOT CASTLE and instead is obliged to move the (touched) rook"

Directors: please inform players before each tournament

(see En Passant #72 p. 43 for more)

Canadian Junior Closed (report by Bob Bosenius)

The Canadian Junior Closed Chess Championship was held from December 27 to January 5 in Winnipeg. The site was the historical Fort Garry Hotel. The hotel was very comfortable and the tournament was well organized. I was not pleased with my score of 2 points (4 draws), however, with more careful and precise play I could have easily doubled it. Considering the rating difference (an average close to 200 points higher than my rating), I was competitive in all my games, except for two or three. I had prepared for the wrong openings (I had to face d4 every time I was Black) and thus suffered the "Rob Gardner syndrome" (a lack of opening knowledge which leads to consuming lots of time trying to find the correct -- incorrect? -- plan). The tournament ended in a tie for first place, with Tyler Johnson and Vinny Puri having to play a match to decide first place. Puri won the match and therefore the right to represent Canada at the World Junior. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ACA for all the necessary funding and Jeff Reeve for his assistance. I enjoyed this tournament and look forward to representing Alberta again in the future.

My first game was against Ontario's Dave Southam. I managed to get into time trouble and was rather nervous during the game:

Dave Southam - Bob Bosenius

1. d4 g6, 2. c4 Nf6, 3. Nc3 Bg7, 4. g3 0-0, 5. Bg2 d6, 6. Nf3 Nbd7, 7. 0-0 Re8 Here I should have played e5. 8. e4 Allowing me to transpose back into the main line. 8. ... e5, 9. h3 Prepares for Be3 and stops the main line 9. Be3 Ng4, 10. Bg5 f6, 11. Bc1 Nh6, 12. h3 Nf7, 13. Be3 Nf8, 14. Qc2 c6, 15. Rad1 Qc7, 16. b4 Bd7 and White is slightly better. However, I could have played 9. ... ed, 10. Nd4 Nc5, 11. Re1 a5, 12. Ndb5 Nfd7, 13. Be3 Ne5, 14. b3 Ned3, 15. Re2 c6, 16. Nd4 a4 (ECO), which is unclear. 9. ... h6, 10. Be3 c6, 11. Re1 Qc7, 12. Qd2 Kh7, 13. Rad1 Nf8, 14. b4 Bd7, 15. de de, 16. Bc5 I am starting to dislike this bind. 16. ... Rad8, 17. Bd6 Qc8, 18. Ne5 If 18. h4 Bg4, 19. Qc2 Re6, 20. c5 N8d7, 21. a4 Bf3, 22. Bf3 Bf8, Black can now untangle his pieces. 18. ... Bh3, 19. Nf7 Bg2, 20. Kg2 Rd7, 21. Nh6 Forced because of the pin. 21. ... Bh6, 22. Rh1 Nh5, 23. Qe2 Rf7? Draw. I was in time trouble in this double-edged position. I still feel I am winning. Had I played 23. ... Ne6, 24. Rh5 gh, 25. Qh5 Ng7, Black wins. 24. f4 or 24. c5 lose to Rd6 and, if Qg4, I would play Rf7, threatening Nef4! After 23. ... Rf7, the correct continuation starts with 24. c5 Ne6, 25. Qc4 Kg7, 26. Raf1, etc.

Again, time trouble caused me to accept a draw in a position where I was better:

Bob Bosenius - Dave McTavish

1. c4 Nf6, 2. Nc3 d5, 3. cd Nd5, 4. g3 g6, 5. Bg2 Nb6, 6. d3 Bg7, 7. Nf3 Be3 was the correct continuation, with the following line: 7. ... Nc6, 8. Bc6 bc, 9. Qc1 h5, 10. Nf3 Bg4, 11. Ng5 Nd5, 12. Nd5 Qd5 and White is better. 7. ... Nc6, 8. Be3 h6, 9. h4 Qd2 or 0-0 are probably stronger, however I had a hunch that Dave might try some sort of a pawn storm. Now I realize that I shouldn't have worried about it. 9. ... e5, 10. Qd2 Nd4, 11. Rc1 Be6, 12. 0-0 c6, 13. b3 In the next few moves I offered an exchange of my a- and b-pawns plus a rook for a knight and a bishop, realizing that then my pieces would be ready for a Queenside onslaught (Ed.: 12. ... Bb3 is the exchange referred to, but not 13. ... Bb3, 14. Bd4). 12. ... Qe7, 13. Ne4 Nd5, 14. Nc5 Ne3, 15. Qe3 Nf5, 16. Qd2 0-0, 17. Ne6 Qe6, 18. Qb4 Rab8, 19. Qc4 Qe7, 20. Qc5 Rfd8, 21. Bh3 Qc5, 22. Rc5 f6, 23. h5! Bf8, 24. Rc2 Ne7, 25. hg Ng6, 26. Bf5 Kg7, 27. Kg2 Ne7, 28. Bh3 Nd5, 29. Bf5 Ne7. Draw. I was in mild time trouble here and decided to accept his offer. However, I believe White is better. I would try to break through on the c-file after first softening up the Kingside by an exchange of knights. He would then have a bad bishop and weak white squares.

This last game was played between Puri and Schleifer. They were considered to be the pre-tournament favorites.

V. Puri - M. Schleifer

1. c4 e5, 2. Nc3 Nc6, 3. Nf3 g6, 4. d4 ed, 5. Nd5 Bg7, 6. Bg5 f6 Nce7 should be played, with the following 7. Nd4 h6, 8. Bh4 g5, 9. Bg3 Nd5, 10. cd5 c5!, 11. Nf5 Bb2, 12. Qc2 Qa5, 13. Kd1 Ba1 (=), 14. Qe4+ Kd8, 15. Nd6 Ne7, 16. Nf7+ with equality. 7. Bf4 d6, 8. Nd4 Nd4, 9. Qd4 Kf7 ECO suggests 9. ... Ne7, with a slight advantage to White. 10. g3 Be6, 11. Bg2 g5, 12. Be3 Nh6, 13. h4 c6, 14. Nc3 Nf5, 15. Qd3 g4, 16. Bf4 Qb6, 17. h5 Rcd8, 18. h6 Bf8, 19. Rh5 Ne7, 20. Bd6 Nc8, 21. c5 Qa5, 22. b4 Qa3, 23. Rb1 Nd6, 24. cd6 Rd6, 25. Qc2 b6, 26. Ne4 Rd4, 27. Qc6 Qb4 In time trouble, Mike tries a speculative Queen sacrifice. 28. Rb4 Bb4, 29. Nc3 Rc8, 30. Qb7 Bd7, 31. Bd5 Ke7, 32. Kf1 Rc3? (time pressure) 32. ... Bc3. 33. Kg2 Bd6, 34. Qa8 Rc5, 35. Qg8 Rdd5, 36. Rd5 Bc6, 37. e4 Bd5, 38. ed Be5, 39. Qe6 Kd8, 40. d6 and Black lost on time. (1-0).

Edmonton Junior High Team Championship

This Championship took place on May 4 at the Centennial Library.

St. Hilda, the defending champions, captured first with a score of 13.5 out of 16. The impressive St. Hilda team consisted of Pawel Jachowicz, David Lee, Jason Cinq-Mars and Bruce Olstad. The Parkview team of Kyle Loranger, Stan Tubinschlak, Mitch Miyagawa and Harbuksh Sekhon handily took second with 11 points. Third went to Kenilworth A (9.5) and fourth on tiebreak to Dickinsfield (9). Members of the first four teams received trophies or medals. Books were also given to members of the first three teams.

Other teams competing were: Highlands (9), Lorne Akins A (9), St. Kevin A (8.5), Kenilworth B (6.5), North Edmonton Christian (6.5), Hardisty (6), St. Kevin B (4) and Lorne Akins B (1.5).

(Organizer: Carol Miyagawa)
(TD, Report: Rob Gardner)

Edmonton Elementary Team Championship

Twelve teams, representing seven schools, participated in this event, held May 11 at the Centennial Library.

York A came from behind in the last round to capture first place with 12.5 out of 16. Playing for York A were Robert Lam, Alan Chang, Jason Baden and Chris Kendall. The Rio Terrace team, which had been leading throughout the tournament, finished second with 12 points. The Rio Terrace team consisted of Alex Fyodorov, Dima Shubov, Bob Craig and Alex Bodski. York A and Rio Terrace received books and trophies for their efforts. Members of the Greenfield B team, third with 10 points, each received trophies. The fourth place finishers, Scott Robertson A, with 9 points, received medals. Tied for fifth were Greenfield A (8.5) and North Edmonton Christian (8.5). Other teams playing were: Scott Robertson B (7.5), St. Justin (7.5), York B (7), St. Thomas Aquinas A (5.5), Scott Robertson C (5) and St. Thomas Aquinas B (3).

(Organizer: Carol Miyagawa)
(TD, Report: Rob Gardner)

MORE TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Black Knight Spring Round Robin

The Black Knight Spring Round Robin, with eight players, became a very competitive joust. One unrated newcomer withdrew after round two and the seven remaining players were only separated by 392 rating points.

Ernie Graveline took first on tiebreak over Jim Hilchie, then a four way tiebreak placed Mark Vaysblat, Francis Northover, Kim Cross and Reinder Slood in third to sixth positions. The two "upset" games were Slood's win over Vaysblat and Cross' win over Hilchie.

Ted Lockert didn't manage to show his usual spark, however, after the tournament comments were made (talking to himself) to the effect of "new strategy" and "no more Mr. Nice-guy".

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1. E. Graveline	X	1	0	0	1	1	1	4
2. J. Hilchie	0	X	1	1	0	1	1	4
3. M. Vaysblat	1	0	X	1	1	0	0	3
4. F. Northover	1	0	0	X	1	0	1	3
5. K. Cross	0	1	0	0	X	1	1	3
6. R. Slood	0	0	1	1	0	X	1	3
7. T. Lockert	0	0	1	0	0	0	X	1
R. McPhail	0					0		

(TD and report: Bill Rusk)

★ How many chances do you get to play in a Canadian Open right here in Alberta? — don't miss it! This is the premier open tournament in the entire country. A great experience; see you there!

1. Fred South	2229	X	=	=	1	1	=	3.5
2. Ian Loadman	2157	=	X	0	1	=	=	2.5
3. Branimir Brebrich	2110	=	1	X	0	0	1	2.5
4. Rob Hawkes	2321	0	0	1	X	=	1	2.5
5. Jeff Reeve	2318	0	=	1	=	X	0	2.0
6. Rob South	2212	=	=	0	0	1	X	2.0

(Organizer, TD, Report: Darse Billings)

Fred South of Calgary is the 1985 Alberta Closed Champion. Fred played well and consistently to finish first by a well deserved full point margin. This was the second near-2400 performance for Fred, the last being three weeks earlier when the same players topped the field in the Canadian Closed Qualifier (he shared first with Hawkes, 4.5-.5).

Round 1

1	F. South - Hawkes	0
=	Reeve - Loadman	=
0	R. South - Brebrich	1

The big game was between Fred and five-time defending Alberta champion, Rob Hawkes. FIDE Master Hawkes has "owned" this tournament for half a decade, but drew the Black pieces against Fred. Hawkes' Caro-Kann "equalized" (BCO, p. 223, n.1), but White quickly obtained a favorable position. Some inaccuracies allowed Black to fight back, but the effort showed on the clock. Rob then sacked a piece unsoundly and Fred proved it. In other games, older brother Rob South played a complex variation of the King's Gambit (1. e4 e5, 2. f4 ef, 3. Nc3) but went wrong and eventually lost a piece against fairly accurate play. Reeve appeared to have a sizable advantage (although that could be a superficial assessment). In any case, it degenerated into an even rook ending which was agreed drawn.

[Editor: In discussing his game, Hawkes expressed the opinion that he stood quite a bit better and that his piece sac was sound. The losing errors came later. The game Reeve - Loadman looks very exciting, but only if you don't have any opening books. The first 16 moves are theory, 17. Qd3 being the book move; Black eventually equalizes. After 17. Nd5, the ending is forced. Despite several mistakes (19. ... Ke6 being foremost among them) Black drew comfortably. After the game, Reeve thought the position after 19. Ke2 was probably just equal.]

J. Reeve - I. Loadman

1. e4 d6, 2. d4 Nf6, 3. Nc3 g6, 4. f4 Bg7, 5. Nf3 c5, 6. Bb5+ Bd7, 7. e5 Ng4, 8. e6 Bb5, 9. ef7 Kd7, 10. Nb5 Qa5+, 11. Nc3 cd4, 12. Nd4 Bd4, 13. Qd4 Nc6, 14. Qc4 Qb6, 15. Qe2 h5, 16. Bd2 Nd4, 17. Nd5 Ne2, 18. Nb6+ ab6, 19. Ke2 Ke6, 20. Kf3 Nh6, 21. Bc3 Rh7, 22. Rhe1+ Kd7, 23. Re4 Rf7, 24. g3 Ng4, 25. h3 Nf6, 26. Bf6 Rf6, 27. a3 b5, 28. Rd1 Rc8, 29. c3 Rc5, 30. Ke3 Re6, 31. g4 Rf6, 32. Rdd4 Rf8, 33. Kf3 Rf7, 34. Kg3 Rf8, 35. Rb4 Rb8, 36. Kh4 hg4, 37. hg4 Rh8+, 38. Kg3 Ra8, 39. c4 Rc4, 40. Rec4 bc4, 41. Rc4 Ra5, 42. Rb4 (sealed). Agreed drawn without resumption.

Round 2

0	Brebrich (1) - (0)	Hawkes	1
=	Loadman (.5) - (1)	F. South	=
1	R. South (0) - (.5)	Reeve	0

Hawkes had fun winning with a Benoni. In Loadman - F. South, a central break resulted in an open file and general exchanges, with a level ending. In the premier fight, Rob South was behind on points but scored a lucky knock-out punch that sent Reeve to the canvas.

B. Brebrich - R. Hawkes

1. c4 Nf6, 2. Nc3 e6, 3. d4 c5, 4. d5 ed5, 5. cd5 d6, 6. e4 g6, 7. f4 Bg7, 8. Nf3 0-0, 9. Be2 Re8, 10. Nd2 Nbd7, 11. 0-0 c4, 12. Kh1 Nc5, 13. Bf3 b5, 14. Nb5 Nfe4, 15. Nc4 Rb8, 16. Na7 Qh4, 17. Kg1 Ba6, 18. Be2 Bc4, 19. Bc4 Rb4, 20. Be3 Rc4, 21. Rb1 Nf6, 22. Bf2 Qg4, 23. b4 Nce4, 24. b5 Qd1, 25. Rbd1 Ng4, 26. Bb6 Rb8, 27. h3 Rb6, 28. hg4 Nc3, 29. Rde1 Bd4+, 30. Kh2 Nd5, 31. Nc8 Rc8 (0-1).

R. South - J. Reeve

(annotations by R. South)

In advance of my annotations to this game, I would like to compliment the form of the winner of this tournament and the co-winner of the Western Qualifier (i.e. Fred South). For a long time Fred and I had approximately equal ratings but, lately, he seems to be playing with a lot of confidence. It's nice to see someone playing well -- even if he is my brother.

1. c4 g6, 2. d4 Bg7, 3. Nc3 Nf6, 4. Nf3 0-0, 5. Bg5 With White's 5th move I intended a quiet system with the e-pawn going to e3 to support d4. 5. ... h6, 6. Bh4 d6, 7. e3 Nbd7, 8. Be2 c5 Black attacks the d4-square which has been slightly weakened by the B's absence. 9. 0-0 cd, 10. Nd4!? ed may be better, with a good pawn duo. 10. ... Nc5, 11. b4 Probably weakens the Q-side dark squares too much. Qc2 looks better. 11. ... Nce4, 12. Ne4 Ne4, 13. Qc2 f5, 14. Rad1 g5, 15. f3 White is consistently weakening his own dark squares for the opposing B/g7. Bg3 keeps the p-formation stronger. 15. ... Nc3! Black puts the white Queen on a bad square with this desperado move and keeps his K-side closed (the f-file especially). 16. Qc3 gh, 17. Kh1 a5, 18. a3 f4! White's dark squares are about to collapse. 19. e4 ab, 20. ab Qb6, 21. c5 dc, 22. bc Qf6, 23. h3?! I was worried about Black's h3, but getting out of the pin on the diagonal was better. 23. ... Kh8, 24. Bc4? A superficially attractive move that almost loses a piece. 24. ... Rd8, 25. e5 Seeing that his game is positionally bad, White goes for the last chance. 25. ... Qe5, 26. Nc6! Nb5 doesn't work as the black Q is not attacked, so ... Rd1 would work. 26. ... Qc3, 27. Rd8+ Bf8? 27. ... Kh7, 28. Bg8+ Kg6, 29. Ne7+ Kg5, 30. Nc8 looks exciting, but Black should escape. or 28. Bd3+ Qd3, 29. Rd3 bc, 30. Rd8 unclear. Black has two B's, but the B/c8 is very cramped. 28. Rf8+ Kg7, 29. Rf7+ Kg6, 30. Ne7+ Kg5, 31. Rd1 Ra1, 32. Ra1 Qa1+, 33. Kh2 Qd4, 34. Nc8 Qc4 34. ... Qc5, 35. Be6 Qf2, 36. Rf5+ Kg6, 37. Ne7+ Kg7, 38. Rf7+ Kh8, 39. Ng6+ Kg8, 40. R-moves mate or 34. ... Qf2, 35. Ne7 Qg3+, 36. Kg1 Qe1+, 37. Bf1 winning. 35. Nd6 Amusingly, White has arrived at a won position. The Ne4 will guard (1) the passed p on c5, (2) the white King on h2 from Q-checks on g3, and (3) the R/f6 as it clears the way for the pawn. 35. ... Qd5, 36. Rb7 Kg6, 37. Rc7 Qe5, 38. Rc8 Qe6, 39. Re8 Qd5, 40. Ne4 Kf5, 41. Rf8+ Kg6, 42. Rf6+ Kh5, 43. Rd6 Qc4, 44. c6 Qa2! Black threatens ... Qg2! -- stalemate. 45. Rd5+! Kg6, 46. c7 Qd5, 47. c8=Q (1-0).

Round 3

1	Reeve (.5) - (1)	Brebrich	0
=	F. South (1.5) - (1)	R. South	=
0	Hawkes (1) - (1)	Loadman	1

The South brothers may have broken their own record for short draws (under two minutes!) but, after all, there was a hockey game on. Brebrich hung a piece in an even ending. Hawkes used too much time to find a move in a roughly equal position. In time pressure, his position deteriorated and he lost on time.

Round 4

1	Brebrich (1)	- (2)	Loadman	0
0	R. South (1.5)	- (1)	Hawkes	1
0	Reeve (1.5)	- (2)	F. South	1

At the start of the round, it looked like an upset could be in the making. In the tightly packed group, Loadman and Fred South lead with two points. But since Loadman had played the three strongest players and South had yet to play Reeve, some speculated that Loadman could win or share the championship with a good day's work. Alas, it was not to be, as Brebrich played his best game of the tournament. Hawkes won a piece against Rob South. Fred, knowing he just needed a solid result to virtually clinch first, decided to play a brand new opening! He played it very competently, and with one move that distinguishes the master from the rest of us patzers (i.e. 17. ... Ne4!), started to outplay one of the strongest players to ever play chess in this province. Then, by exercising some technique (coping with an opponent's doubled rooks on the 7th rank), he secured the full point.

J. Reeve - F. South

(annotations by J. Reeve)

1. e4 e6, 2. d4 d5, 3. Nd2 c5, 4. Ngf3 cd, 5. ed Qd5, 6. Bc4 Qd8, 7. O-O Nf6, 8. Nb3 Nc6, 9. Nbd4 Apparently White should play 9. Qe2 with the idea of 10. Rd1 and 11. Nbd4. 9. ... Nd4, 10. Nd4 Be7, 11. Bg5 O-O, 12. c3 Qc7, 13. Bd3? I can't imagine why I didn't play 13. Qe2. 13. ... b6, 14. Qe2 Bb7, 15. Bh4 Rad8, 16. Rfe1 Rfe3?! Black might want to start worrying about the threats on e6 by playing 16. ... Kh8 since 17. Nf5? Rd3, 18. Ne7 Rdd8 wins for Black. 17. Bb5 Ne4! The only move, but a good one. 17. ... Nd7 loses to 18. Ne6 etc., while 17. ... Rf8, 18. Nf5! wins the bishop-pair and gives White the advantage (18. ... Bc5?, 19. Bf6 +-). What is particularly strange about this move is that it was played almost instantly, as were most of his moves. 18. Bg3 If 18. Be8 Bh4, 19. g3, Black has the choice of sacrificing the exchange or forcing a draw with 19. ... Ng5, 20. Bb5 (20. f4 Nh3+, 21. Kf1 Re8) 20. ... Rd4, 21. cd Nf3+ and, if White tries to avoid the perpetual with 22. Qf3 Bf3, 23. Rfc1 Qd6!, 24. gh g6, it's still probably a draw due to White's shattered Kingside (25. Rc3 Qf4, 26. h3 Qh4, 27. Rf3 Qg5+). 18. ... Ng3, 19. hg Rf8, 20. Rad1?

Blacks two B's and better pawns give him the better position unless 20. Ne6 fe, 21. Qe6+ Rf7, 22. Bc4 works. In Kotov's excellent book, "Think Like a Grandmaster", he says that one of the best ways to improve is to analyze complicated positions deeply, and then compare your findings with the published analysis. If anyone wants to try, study this position for a few hours and see what you come up with before looking at my notes.

During the game, I rejected the line because of 22. ... Bc5, 23. Rad1 Bf2+, 24. Kh1 Bg2+, 25. Kg2 Qg3+, at which point I gave up because the position was too frightening. But that position is a simple win for White after 26. Kf1 since Black runs out of checks and can't defend the back rank. 24. Kf1 also wins in this line, e.g. 24. ... Be1, 25. Qf7+ Qf7+, 26. Bf7+ Kf7, 27. Rd8 with the idea of Ke1, Rd7+; or 24. ... Rf8, 25. Qf7+ Qf7, 26. Bf7+ Rf7, 27. Re8+.

Also, 23. ... Rf8, 24. Rd7 Bf2, 25. Kf1 Bg2+, 26. Ke2! and wins. In this line 25. ... Qc4, 26. Qc4 Ba6, 27. Qa6 Rd7, 28. Qc4+ Kh8, 29. Re4 wins. If 23. ... Rd1, 24. Rd1 Bf2, 25. Kf1 Bc5, 26. Qf7, 23. ... Rd1, 24. Rd1 Bc6 almost works, but 25. b4! Bf8 (25. ... Bf2+, 26. Kh1 g6 [Bg2+ doesn't work, for the usual reason] 27. Qf7+ Qf7, 28. Bf7+ Kf7, 29. Rf1) 26. Rd4! g5, 27. b5 Bb5, 28. Bb5 Kh8, 29. Bc4 Rg7, 30. Qe8 Qe7, 31. Rd8 wins.

Black has one more try: 23. ... Bd5! (Borloi). An ingenious yet well know concept. Black is having problems on both the a2-g8 diagonal and the d-file, so you just throw something at the intersecting square (d5) and see if the temporary constipation of White's pieces gives Black enough time to purge off the attack. 23. ... Rd5 fails to 24. Rd5 Bf2, 25. Kh1 and there are just too many back rank mates. Note also that, in the line 23. ... Bf2, 24. Kh1 or 24. Kf1, 24. ... Bd5 fails to 25. Qd5 since the Black bishop has left the defence of the back rank.

So -- 23. ... Bd5!, 24. Bd5 Bf2+, 25. Kh1 Rd5, 26. Qd5 Be1, 27. Re1 Qd7! and I think that any ending (except K+P!) should be drawn due to White's weak K-side pawns. 24. Rd5 Bf2+, 25. Kh1 Be1, 26. Rf5 seemingly wins since 26. ... Rf8, 27. Rf7 Qf7, 28. Qe4 picks up the Q, but 26. ... Bg3! (Bosenius) with the idea of 27. Rf7 Kh8! =. Amazing, but true. If 26. Re5 Kh8 =.

But what about 22. ... Bf8? This move leads to a very strange position which is difficult to analyze. 23. Rad1 Rd1, 24. Rd1 Bc8 (24. ... Bc6 runs into 25. Rd8 Qb7, 26. Rb8 Qc7, 27. Rc8), 25. Qd5 Bf5 (25. ... g6, 26. Qd4), 26. Rd4 Bg6, 27. b4 and White has some chances involved with pushing the K-side pawns. At worst, White can bail out into a mealy ending (R + 2P vs 2 B's) by taking the rook at some point.

All this means that I should have played 20. Ne6. After the tournament, Rob Hawkes, Ian Loadman and myself were looking at the position at about 3 o'clock in the morning and somehow conjured up a line leading to a strange and difficult K + P ending where White had lost his g3- and f2-pawns, e.g. K + 4P vs K + 4P with different majorities on each wing. Unfortunately, after much searching, I've been forced to conclude that no coherent series of moves will lead to such an ending, and that the position was created ... in the Twilight Zone.

Before I forget, if anyone can remember the position in the game 3 moves ago, note to move 17. ... Rf8, 18. Nf5!; 18. Ne6 fe, 19. Qe6+ Rf7, 20. Bf6 Bf6, 21. Bc4 is not quite as good as in the main lines I've been looking at, especially since the simple 18. Nf5! is possible.

20. ... Bc5! Only now did I realize that the intended 21. Nf3 loses to 21. ... Qg3, 22. b4 Bf3.

21. Bd3? Played like a dog. Allowing an isolated QP in this position is tantamount to resignation. I should have tried 21. Qg4, although Black is still better. 21. ... Bd4, 22. cd Rd6, 23. Be4 Rfd8, 24. Rc1 Qd7, 25. Red1 g6, 26. Bb7 Qb7, 27. Rc4 Qd7, 28. Qc2 e5, 29. Rc7 Qe6, 30. Re1 Rd4, 31. Ra7 Rd2, 32. Qc3 Qf6, 33. Qf3 Qf3, 34. gf Rb2, 35. Rc1 35. Re5 Rd1+, 36. Kg1 R1d2 etc. 35. ... Rd3!, 36. f4 ef, 37. Rc8+ Kg7, 38. Rcc7 fg, 39. Rf7+ Kg8, 40. Rg7+ Kf8, 41. Rgf7+ Ke8, 42. fg Rg3+, 43. Kf1 Rc3, 44. Rfe7+ Kd8, 45. Re1 h5, 46. a4 h4, 47. Rg7 h3, 48. Rg8+ Kc7, 49. Rg7+ Kb8, 50. Rg6 h2 (0-1).

B. Brebrich - I. Loadman

1. e4 d5, 2. ed5 Nf6, 3. d4 Nd5, 4. Nf3 Bg4, 5. Be2 e6, 6. O-O Be7, 7. h3 Bh5, 8. Ne5 Be2, 9. Qe2 O-O, 10. Rd1 c6, 11. Nd2 Nd7, 12. Ndf3 h6, 13. c3 Qc7, 14. c4 N5f6, 15. Bf4 Bd6, 16. c5 Ne5, 17. Ne5 Be5, 18. Be5 Qd8, 19. Bd6 Re8, 20. Rd3 Qd7, 21. Rg3 Red8, 22. Re1 Kh8, 23. Be5 Ne8, 24. Qh5 Kh7, 25. Qg4 f6, 26. Qg6+ Kh8, 27. Bf4 Qd4, 28. Bh6 Qd7, 29. Re6 (1-0). Black made quite a few mistakes [Editor: That's putting it charitably].

Round 5

=	F. South (3)	- (2)	Brebrich	=
=	Hawkes (2)	- (1.5)	Reeve	=
=	Loadman (2)	- (1.5)	R. South	=

Thus, going into the final round, Fred South led by a full point and had the White pieces against Brebrich. In theory, there still could be a two, three or four way tie for first if Brebrich won. But Fred had demolished Brebrich, even though Fred had Black, in their last two games, so the only question seemed to be whether Fred wanted to play for a routine win to ensure a 2300+ rating. He opted to ensure clear first with a safe 1. Nf3 Nf6, 2. g3 and a simple liquidating line in the symmetrical English, drawing in 13. With the result of the tournament not in doubt, Loadman and R. South played a comfortable draw [Editor: I tried hard, I really did]. Ironically, the final round match-up of the top two seeds, which was potentially supposed to decide the tournament winner, was actually a battle to avoid sharing last place. Reeve pressed hard, but Hawkes escaped with a perpetual attack. Thus, all games were drawn and the standings did not change.

This year's tournament was (unofficially) the strongest Alberta Closed ever and, with near-master Andrew Zissos as first alternate, it is clear that this province is definitely growing in elite chess.

We can all look forward to strong tournaments and good chess in the future.

[Editor: Congratulations to Fred South. With the possible exception of his game with Hawkes, Fred's play in this tournament was very impressive. He played quickly and confidently -- in our game he was an hour ahead on the clock after 18 moves -- and there can be no doubt that his victory was well deserved. Thanks to Darse for directing. He is certainly Alberta's, and possibly Canada's, most active TD.]

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Walter Holowach Challenge

(Edmonton Chess Club)

Gregory Shvartsburd, with a perfect 6 points, led the way for a cast of thousands who entered this year's Holowach Challenge. Ferenc Borloi and Joe Tumpek, still sandbagging a bit with his rating, tied for second with 4 points. Otto Benedik came off a fast start, winning his first 3 games, but went into a tail spin, ending up tied with Richard Douzich, both with 3.

Mr. Holowach made his traditional appearance at the Club (he is an Honorary Life Member), but we couldn't get him to stop playing chess long enough to tell us about the "old days". His support of the tournament is gratefully acknowledged.

(Report: David Johansen)

Abe Shnitka Memorial

(Edmonton Chess Club)

The Abe Shnitka tournament is held annually, with entry restricted to those rated below 1600.

Karl Affek took first place with 6 points to lead a group of players even larger than the Holowach entry field. Del Allen finished second with 4 points. Nearly one third of the players (M. Bayle, P. Jachowicz, D. Cleaver) finished tied for third with 3.5 scores.

(Report: David Johansen)

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M. Yip - B. Brebrich

Calgary C.C. Championship

(annotations by M. Yip)

1. d4 Nf6, 2. c4 e6, 3. Nc3 d5 The Queen's Gambit Declined is considerably more complex than it appears. I would recommend it to anyone as a solid defense. B. Parma and D. Marovic explain the Black side of the QGD excellently in An Opening Repertoire for Black (ARCO). 4. Bg5 Be7, 5. Nf3 O-O, 6. e3 h6 ... h6 is a useful move, politely asking White his intentions, and should not be viewed as weakening. 7. Bh4 c6, 8. Rc1 Nbd7, 9. Bd3? Quickly played and without proper understanding of each side's plans. Black, of course, would like to play dc4 with tempo after White's Bd3, followed by b5, ab, Bb7 and c5, with an equal game. White should not be so ready to fall into Black's plans and play 9. Qc2 (delaying the Bd3 move) ab, 10. a3 Re8, 11. Bd3 dc4, 12. Bc4 b5, 13. Ba2 c5, 14. Bb1. Excellent examples of how to handle the QGD can be found in My Best Games 1908-1923 and My Best Games 1924-1937 by Alekhine. 9. ... a6! To reinforce b5 after dc4. Black, however, has wasted a precious tempo compared to the regular Carlsbad variation by inserting c6 as now the c5 advance takes two precious tempi. 10. O-O?! White plays oblivious to the choices he must make. With Black's last move, White has two alternatives: (1) 10. cd5, transposing into the Exchange Variation with h6 and Bh4 inserted. This would be a safe course but not dangerous to Black as ways to neutralize the "minority attack" are well known. (2) 10. c5 -- an attempt to refute Black's development system, as in Portisch-Petrosian 1974, where Black was crushed. However, subsequent analysis has removed the sting from this line too. (reference: Parma & Marovic's book). If I were to be given this position again, I would play 10. a3 with Ba2-b1 and Qc2 in mind after dc4, with chances for both sides. 10. ... dc4, 11. Bc4 b5, 12. Bd3 c5, 13. Re1? A critical turning point -- now White must utilize his extra tempo in the most effective way. Either (1) 11. a4, with the idea of 11. ... b4, 12. Nb1-c4-e5, or (2) 11. Bb1, with the idea of Qc2 and enforcing e4-e5, would be better. The rook move is not yet needed. 13. ... c4, 14. Bb1 Bb7, 15. a3 Nd5, 16. Be7 Qe7, 17. Qc2?? Superficially played. White is striving for e4 and should now take the opportunity. After 17. e4!, White has a strong game as Black's c4 advance has prematurely released the tension in the center, enabling White to obtain the ideal pawn duo at d4 and e4 relatively unmolested. 17. ... f5! Excellent move. The weakening of e5 is not significant. In one swoop the B+Q battery and e4 are neutralized. 18. Ne5 Ne5, 19. de5 Qg5?! 19. ... Nc3, 20. Qc3 Qg5, 21. g3 Bf3 -+ is quite sufficient for Black to win. 20. Nd5 Bd5, 21. f4 Qe7 White is lost because of (1) the crippling white square weaknesses and (2) there is no way for White to play against the active pawn majority on the Queen's wing. 22. Qc3 Qb7, 23. g3 Be4 This seems unnecessary as Black's bishop is much stronger than White's. 23. ... a5, with the idea of mobilizing the pawns. Black first selects the alternative of playing on the white squares in the center. 24. Be4 Qe4, 25. Rad1 Rfd8, 26. Rd6 Exchanging is hopeless. White is willing to part with a pawn to activate the major pieces for some compensation. 26. ... Rd6, 27. ed6 Qd5, 28. Re2 Qd6, 29. Rd2 Qe7, 30. Rd4?! Played with the idea of e4 to open things up. However, with the exchange of rooks, Black obtains a won Queen ending as White is not able to force a perpetual check because of the secure position of the Black King. Much better is 30. Qd4 because it retains control of the d-file and the central dark squares. 30. ... Rd8, 31. Qd2 Rd4, 32. Qd4 Kf7, 33. Qe5? White is lost in any case. However, 33. Qc3 or 33. Kf2 may have lasted just a little longer. After 33. Qf6 White played a few moves before resigning. (0-1, 38).

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