

Alberta Chess Report



A Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ December 2018

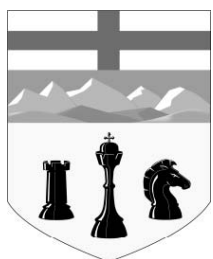
Team North Wins Fifth Consecutive Battle of Alberta...



...while Team South tries for revenge in the Junior BoA. Plus, the Calgary and Edmonton Internationals, 2018 Canadian Seniors Championship, Alberta Junior Championship & more.



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The Alberta Chess Report is a publication of the Alberta Chess Association. Submissions are welcome and can include photos, chess-related articles of interest, tournament reports, or game analysis. To have your submission included, please contact the ACA at albertachess@gmail.com. Please note that the ACR will be run by volunteers after the July 2019 issue.

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Photos (front page, clockwise from top left): Team Alberta at the 2018 Canadian Chess Challenge, GM Steven Zierk and Vlad Rekhson at the Calgary International, game analysis at the Banff Open, and FM Ng-FM Gicev on board one at the Battle of Alberta. Last three photos by Bhavik Dave.



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The Alberta Chess Association is in partnership with the Recreation and Physical Activity Division of Alberta Culture and Tourism to enhance the quality of life of Albertans through a variety of chess related activities. The ACA gratefully acknowledges the support provided by Alberta Culture and Tourism, as well as the AGLC, which enables the association to deliver its programs.



Alberta Active Championship

April 14, 2018—Red Deer

Women's International Master Agnieszka Matras-Clement (2305) was the winner at the 2018 Alberta Active Championship. She was the only player to start with four wins, and she only needed a final round draw with junior Ian Zhao (1683) to finish in clear first (4.5/5.)

The other three titled players in the tournament—CM Rafael Arruebarrena (2261), FM Dale Haessel (2293), and FM Gary Ng (2301)—all finished in a four-way tie for second with Zhao (4/5). Matras-Clement knocked Arruebarrena out of contention, Zhao eliminated Ng, and Haessel was upset by Mark Tuvera (1730) in round two.

Class prizes were awarded to junior Paul Wang (1442), Dean MacDonald (1431), and Kayode Wharton (1372), all with 3/5.

Twenty-eight players participated in the championship, which is held every spring in Red Deer.

Many thanks to Micah Hughey for directing and Alexey Taranik for organizing and assisting.



Above: Winner Agnieszka Matras-Clement with director Micah Hughey. Below, three of the second place finishers (left to right): Zhao, Haessel, and Arruebarrena. Photos by Bhavik Dave.



2018 Lethbridge Open

Apr 7-8, 2018—Lethbridge

Several of the smaller cities put on their ACA tournaments in the spring and early summer, including Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray.

First up in April was Lethbridge. Dustin Koperski returned as the tournament director, assisted by organizer Jerry Mikusek. The tournament enjoyed an excellent turnout of twenty four players.

Aaron Sequillion (2198) claimed the top spot

with 4.5/5. Sequillion was the highest ranked player in the tournament, having a one-point advantage over Canmore's Jerry Kobalenko (2197). The two played to a round four draw, and Kobalenko went on to finish tied for third, alongside Patrick Tolentino, Lucy Cao, and Larry Erdos.

Claiming sole second was Calgary junior Andre Tolentino, who finished with 4/5, including a final round win over Kobalenko.

Many thanks to Jerry Mikusek for organizing and Dustin Koperski for directing.

ACA member Dr. Lance Grigg had a solid 2.5/4 performance at the Lethbridge Open, but the interesting story with Grigg is the work he's been doing with at risk youth at the University of Lethbridge—it involves chess! The following press release was provided courtesy of the University of Lethbridge.—LH

Unique research project involves at-risk youth sentenced to playing chess

Local youth involved in the criminal justice system are being referred to a program where they learn to play chess as part of their sentence. The Chess for Life program is a University of Lethbridge research project that aims to explore how learning to play chess affects youths' thinking and the choices they make every day.

After a local judge sentenced a youth to practice basketball a couple of years ago, Dr. Lance Grigg, an associate professor in education, brought up the possibility of learning to play chess as a possible alternative sentence for youth involved in the criminal justice system. The judge liked the idea and Grigg organized a trial run of the Chess for Life program last year.

"I had a handful of youth," says Grigg. "They came



Above: Kobalenko-Sequillion in their round 4 match. Next page: Patrick Tolentino (left) versus Dr. Lance Grigg

regularly, the youth were engaged and one of them even started playing chess online. It worked and I got good reports from the people the kids were working with."

A team came together to work on the Chess for Life program, including Dr. Monique Sedgwick, an associate professor in nursing, and Dr. Jeffrey MacCormack, assistant professor in education. Josh Markle, an instructor in the Faculty of Education, and Riley Kostek, a teacher at Victoria Park High School, joined the team as research assistants.

Since mid-January, Markle, Kostek and Grigg have provided chess instruction on Friday afternoons to five youth, ranging in age from 12 to 18, who have been referred to the program by the Crown, the judge and the probation officer. The instructors help the youth think ahead and plan their moves — all the way to the end of the game.

"We have conversations about chess and we don't have to go very far before they start to draw parallels between what we're talking about and their own lives," says Markle. "I can see change already."

"There are a lot of rules to chess," says Grigg. "In the first four moves alone, there are over 300 billion options. So, there are a lot of rules that make possible a lot of creativity. Chess needs planning, you need memory and you need to be able to see the consequences of actions before you make them."

MacCormack brought his expertise on executive function to the project. Chess has been shown to positively impact executive function, which includes skills such as planning, making decisions, remembering, thinking flexibly and developing self-control.



“As kids become better chess players, they aren’t just learning how to play a game; they’re learning to play the game of life,” says MacCormack.

“There’s very little in the research literature that deals with the youth experience involved in the criminal justice system, let alone in alternate sentencing,” says Sedgwick. “We want to hear their voices to see whether or not they feel that this program has changed them somehow. We also want to hear from the adults who are involved with these

youths to see if the chess program is influencing how the youth see themselves.”

The Chess for Life program will continue until the end of May. The program is not yet funded but the Faculty of Education is paying the salaries for the research assistants. The team is applying for additional funding and hope to offer the program again and even expand it provincially.— Press Release, University of Lethbridge

Girls Chess Camps

Over the summer and with the support of the Recreation and Physical Activity Division of the Alberta government, the ACA was pleased to offer a series of all-girls chess camps aimed at increasing the participation levels of girls in province.

WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement was on hand to guide all three of the main camps (Edmonton, Calgary, and Fort McMurray). The success of the camps — there were 50+ participants—led to more camps in Calgary and Fort McMurray later on.

Each camp had a slightly different flavor. The Edmonton one featured older girls (Lucy Cao, Michelle Mo, and Carla Robitu) helping out younger players. In Fort McMurray, Jina Burn led a combined camp with both swimming and chess, and she also held an event for adult women interested in chess as well. Calgary was the most successful by the numbers—registration had to be closed early for the initial camp, but a second camp in December was able to provide space for the increasingly large number of interested girls.



Photo: Jina Burn, Agnieszka Matras-Clement, and the Fort McMurray Chess Club put on an excellent all-girls chess camp.

Battle of Alberta



September 8, 2018—Red Deer

Photo: Team North does it again. Players included Rafael Arruebarrena, Michael Ludwig, Hafiz Karmali, Paolo Veneracion, Blagoj Gicev, Anuar Caldera, David Ludwig, Rob Gardner, Hernadzi Arakelian, Edison Sabogal, Peter Kalisvaart, and Vladimir Pechenkin.

In a bid to stop the bleeding from Team South—which was on a four-year losing streak—Omid Malek stepped up and agreed to serve as captain. His efforts were in vain, however, as Team North—also guided by a new captain in CM Rafael Arruebarrena—cruised to victory 13.5 to 10.5.

Five players posted perfect scores. From Calgary, Ian Zhao (2208) defeated FM Vladimir Pechenkin (2333) 2-0, as did Georgi Kostadinov (2143) against Hafiz Karmali (2063). For Team North, Rob Gardner (2239) was perfect over Anand Rishi Chandra (2155), Anuar Caldera (2247) over Vlad Rekhson (2179), and Paolo Veneracion (2133) over Sammy Yao (2123).

Both teams made use of their same-day substitutes, with David Ludwig stepping in for Team North and Bhavik Dave for Team South. In an odd coincidence, they ended up playing each other. Dave won the first game on forfeit, before Ludwig substituted in, and Ludwig won the second game outright.

Michael Ludwig (2076) also stepped in late for Team North. By rating, he was heavily outmatched against FM Dale Haessel (2259) on board three, but he managed to get a surprise second-round victory.

Board one wasn't decisive. FM Blagoj Gicev (2360) beat FM Gary Ng (2389) in round 1, and Ng returned the favor in round 2.

Many people were interested in seeing how the up and coming Calgary juniors would do. Anand Rishi Chandra held his own against the much more experienced Rob Gardner in round one, until the move pictured in the following diagram: 16. ...f6??, after which Gardner finished him off in just a few moves, by playing Qg3, clearing the e5 square for one of his pieces, and embarking on a rook lift.

In round 2 of their matchup, Gardner was able to build up a large tactical lead before blundering into a perpetual, then a loss—both of which Chandra



Unfortunately missed. However, Gardner wouldn't have faced these issues late in the game if Chandra hadn't done his best to keep the position complicated.

Chandra, Anand Rishi (2155) - Gardner, Rob (2239) [C41]

2018 Battle of Alberta (1), 08.09.2018

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 e5 5.Be2 Be7 6.0-0 c6 7.Re1 Qc7 8.Bf1 h6 9.h3 g5 The computer does not care for this move. It wants White to respond by pushing pawns on the queenside, likely in an attempt to make the

black king uncomfortable. **10.g4** Favoring Black, as Black hasn't committed to castling kingside. Black will be able to exploit this weakness in White's position later. **10...Nf8 11.Nh2 Ng6 12.f3 Nf4 13.Ne2 Be6 14.Nxf4 gxf4 15.c4** White finally starts pushing on the queenside, but Black's position is already comfortable. **15...0-0-0 16.d5 Bd7** By far the best move, allowing Black to both protect his own

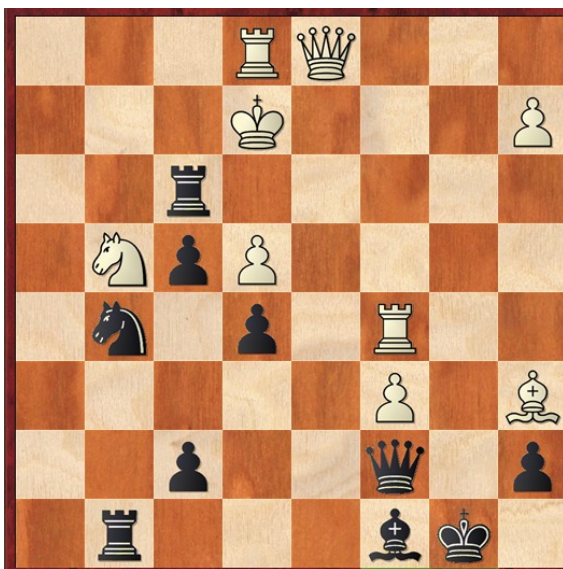


king and, in the case of **dxc6**, take aim at the white king with his bishop. **17.b4 Rdg8** Stronger is **17...h5** directly. **18.Ba3 h5 19.Rc1 hxg4 20.Nxg4?** See diagram left. There's no great recapture, but the following line is crushing: **20...Qb6+ 21.c5** Only chance (**21.Kg2?? Rxh3; 21.Kh1?? Nxg4 22.fxc4 Bxc4**) **21...dxc5 22.bxc5 Qa5!** Crucial to this line, and the only move for a win. **23.Bb2 (23.dxc6 Bxc4 24.cxb7+ Kb8** White looks like he has some pressure against the black king, but it's winning in all lines for Black.) **23...Bxc5+ 24.Kg2 Qb6 25.dxc6 Bxc4 26.cxb7+ Kxb7** and Black is up substantial material with a massive kingside attack going. **20...Nh7? 21.c5 Ng5 22.dxc6 bxc6 23.Ba6+??** See diagram left.

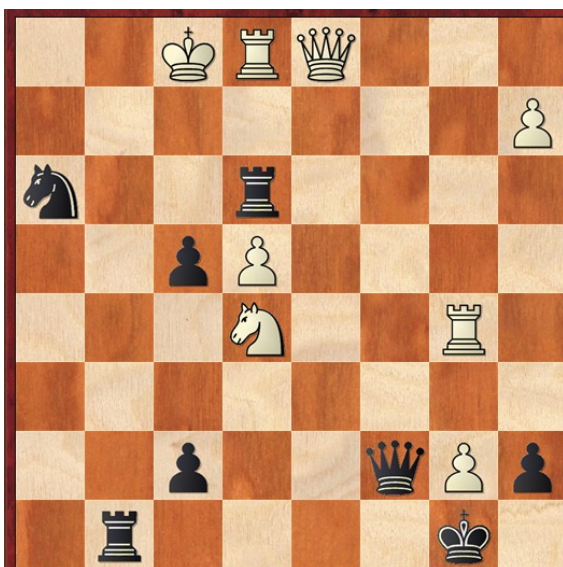


Objectively bad, as it abandons the vulnerable h3 pawn; however, this move allows White to complicate the game, leading to chances later when Black fails to pull off his attack. **23...Kb8 24.b5 dxc5 25.Bxc5 Bxc5+ 26.Rxc5 Rxh3 27.bxc6 Rg3+?? 27...Nxf3+** is best. The text move results in near-equality. **28.Kf1 Rxf3+??** Allowing a perpetual for White! **29.Qxf3 Nxf3 30.Rb1+ Ka8 31.Bb7+** etc. The pres-

ence of the c6 pawn means Black can't give up material here to stop the perpetual. **29.Ke2?** Advantage Black again, though not with the crushing scores he had earlier. **29...Bc8??** See diagram above. Suddenly, White has his first chance at a win with **30.Bxc8** If Black tries to recover the bishop with the rook, **31.Qb1+** quickly finishes him off. If he tries to recover it with the queen, then **c7+** is crushing. If he tries with the king, then **31.Qd7** wins. **30.Rb5+??** Missing his last chance. **30...Ka8 31.Bb7+ Bxb7 32.cxb7+ Kb8 33.Nxe5 Re3+ 34.Kf1 Nh3** See diagram right. White resigns, faced with too many threats. **0-1**



Many thanks to Alexey Taranik and the many organizers and assistants for both teams for the effort they went to for this tournament.



Above: The start of round 1 of Chandra (left) —Gardner.

35th Trumpeter Classic

June 2-3, 2018 —Grande Prairie

Fifteen players turned out for the annual Grande Prairie tournament, including national masters David Miller (2205) and Rob Gardner (2233). Unsurprisingly, they split first place with 4.5/5 after having a round three draw between themselves.

Third place was a five-way tie between Tim Pradzinski (1905), Wade Caughlin (1799), Jason Green (1641), Dustin Koperski (1926), and Trevor Robertson (1648) with 3/5. Many thanks to Caughlin and Pradzinski for organizing and directing.

Right: the winners, David Miller and Rob Gardner, pose with the trophy. Below: the tournament room with Dustin Koperski (left) and Tim Pradzinski (right).



Alberta Blitz Championship

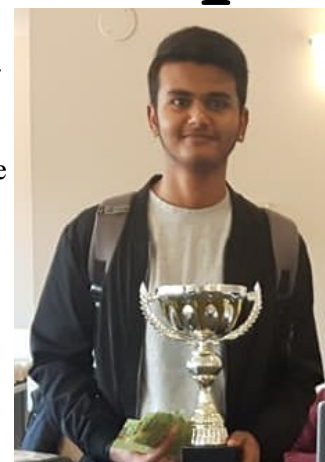
October 20, 2018—Red Deer

In October, the ACA attempted a short lived experiment of having a neutral location provincial blitz championship. Unfortunately, turnout was low for the event, so it was removed from the calendar for 2019.

Champion Aditya Raninga (1713) was nonetheless extremely impressive, reeling off nine straight wins, including two victories over higher-rated opponents. Also notable, parent Angelo Tolentino (2032) played for the first time in many years, and showed that he could still beat all three of his sons over the board. Tolentino finished tied for second with Mark Tuvera (1931), both finishing with 6.5/9.

Many thanks to Frank Kluytmans for stepping in to direct the event, and Alexey Taranik for assisting and organizing.

Photo: Calgary junior Aditya Raninga after the Blitz Championship. Photo by Angelo Tolentino.



Fort McMurray Open

June 30-July 1, 2018—Fort McMurray

Twenty players turned out for the 2018 edition of the Fort McMurray Open. Taking top place were WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement (2308) and Rob Gardner (2237), both of whom scored 4/5. Both drew with each other in round 4, then suffered surprise draws to lower-rated opponents in the final round.

They enjoyed a blitz playoff match afterward for the right to the trophy—a match won by Matras-Clement.

Third place split four ways between Micah Hughey (2116), Leah Hughey (1710), Gary Huang (1680), and Ico van den Born (1966), each with 3.5/5.

The prize fund was a remarkable \$2,750, thanks to the many local sponsors who supported the event. The tournament was part of the larger Wood Buffalo Chess Festival, which included numerous events spread over several days.

Unfortunately, this was Jina Burn's last Fort McMurray Open, and those of us who attended the event didn't truly realize how soon she would be gone—or wouldn't let ourselves believe, given what a force of nature she'd been for so long. Jina put a great effort into organizing the event. Thank you to Jina and the Fort McMurray Chess Club for organizing and to Micah Hughey for directing.

In Memoriam

Jina Burn (1961-2018)

Not long after organizing her final Fort McMurray Chess Festival, Jina Burn passed away. Jina developed the Fort McMurray program from scratch, and she was a tireless champion of junior chess throughout the province. Jina served as both a leader and mentor. She had an immense drive and heart, and she will be deeply missed. She is survived by her son, Johnny, and husband, Peter. Her ashes are scattered at the Fort McMurray chess park.



24th Medicine Hat Open

September 22-23, 2018—Medicine Hat

Seemingly tireless organizer Dr. Bill Taylor insists that 2019 will be his last Medicine Hat Open, as he will have conducted the event for 25 straight years.

For the 2018 version, he welcomed old friend John Quiring (1787) into the winner's circle, as Quiring posted a score of 4/5. Quiring suffered no losses in the tournament; instead he reeled off three wins, followed by back-to-back draws.

Second place went to junior Hemant Srinivasan (1887) and Chris Jonker (1711), both of whom finished with 3.5/5.

Fourteen players participated in the event, with many of them coming from as far away as Edmonton. Many thanks to Bill Taylor for his ongoing chess organizing efforts and to the Medicine Hat Chess Club for hosting the event.

Photo: 2018 winner John Quiring at the 2017 version of the same event. Photo by Bhavik Dave.



13th Edmonton International

June 19-24, 2018—Edmonton

Back in May, FM Ian Findlay won the Qualifying event to the International, after defeating second place finisher Ian Zhao and finishing with 5/5. Third place was a split between Arniel Frialde, Edison Sabogal, and Omid Malek (3.5/5), while the Under-1900 prize was split between Bhavik Dave, James Windram, and Cameron Ratte, and the U-1700 was claimed by Michelle Mo. Jordan Rohatynski organized and directed, along with the help of the Edmonton Chess Club and Terry Seehagen.

The Edmonton International itself looked to be in danger in 2018, as the ACA had difficulty finding an organizer willing to take on the massive organizing task. Fortunately, Rafael Arruebarrena—who had previously been an organizer in Venezuela but had largely kept to playing in Canada—agreed to step in and fill the job. He was assisted by Micah Hughey and Vlad Rekhson.

There were a couple of hitches along the way—a player had to drop out due to a death in the family just days before the start of the tournament, meaning Arruebarrena, who had intended to work as organizer and director only, had to step in as a player and find an alternate director. Dustin Koperski and Richard Pua agreed to help.

Arruebarrena managed to put together an all-titled player list, including four grandmasters: Anton Kovalyov (2651), Victor Mikhalevski (2581), Bator Sambuev (2524), and Enrico Sevillano (2461). There was also FM (now IM) Levy Rozman (2400), IM Michael Kleinman (2394), WIM Maili-Jade Ouellet (2249), FM Ian Findlay (2224), and FM Dale Haessel (2173).

In the end, Kovalyov was nearly perfect, scoring 8/9 and suffering only two draws—both to other GMs. Mikhalevski was a close second with 7.5/9, while Kleinman, Sevillano, and Rozman split third with 5.5/9. The highest-placing Albertan was the qualifier-winner Findlay, who managed to draw GM Sevillano in round 3.

Many thanks to Rafael for taking on this organizing task. As a bonus, he submitted the following two game analyses.



Above: Winner Kovalyov (left) and runner up Mikhalevski. Photos by Bhavik Dave.

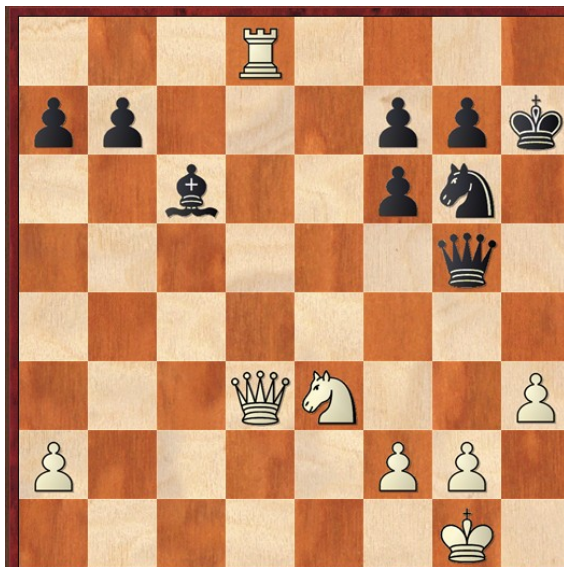
Arruebarrena Rodriguez, Rafael (2267) - Findlay, Ian (2224) [B76]

13th Edmonton International Edmonton (4), 21.06.2018
[Rafael Arruebarrena]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 I guess you can always count on the Dragon when playing Master Findlay. Players with a narrow repertoire with black expose themselves to some trouble as they're static targets for preparation, but on the other hand, experience in the positions they play helps them to come up with counters for everything. I'm reminded of Polugaevsky and his deep preparations in the Najdorf against all comers. Conversely with white he played rather positionally, which makes for a tricky mix. **6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0 d5 10.Qe1 e5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.exd5 Nxd5** [12...cxd5 13.Bg5 Qb6 14.Bxf6 Bh6+? 15.Kb1 Rb8 16.b3 Qxf6 17.Nxd5 this is suddenly a very strong horse 17...Qe6 18.Qh4 g5? 19.Qh5 Bb7 20.Bc4 Rfc8? 21.Ne3!+- 1-0 (24) Arruebarrena Rodriguez,R (2252)-Zeggelaar, M (1901) Edmonton Northern Alberta Open 2017. **13.Bc4 Be6 14.Kb1 a5** By here my preparation ended, but I recently had two games in

at the cost of a few tempi. **13...Qxd6 14.Rfe1** 14.Rae1 may have been more precise. In the game the rook was missed on f1. **14...Bd7 15.c4 Re7 16.c5!?** 16.Red1 I considered this but just having moved the rook to e1 I felt compelled to make it work somehow. **16...Qc7 16...Qd5 17.Nc3?!** (17.Nf4!?! Rxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Qg5 (18...Qxd4?? 19.Re4 is a nice trap I saw during the game) 19.Qc1 didn't appeal to me although it's given as equalish by Stockfish 9) 17...Rxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Qxd4 19.Ne4 with some compensation for the pawn but possibly not enough (19.Re4?! Qxc5 20.Rxh4 was my idea with a messy position but Black can consolidate 20...f5 21.Qe2 Ng6 repelling White's attack.) **17.Nc3 Rae8 18.Rxe7 Rxe7 19.d5** Here I saw another nice trick and went for it. **19...Qa5 20.Be4 Qxc5??** 20...Re5 21.Qb3 cxd5 22.Bxd5 Be6 23.Qxb7 Qxc5 24.Rd1 leads to an equal position according to the computer but I still like White's 2 vs 1 on the queenside. **21.dxc6 Rxe4 21...bxc6 22.Nd5!** winning the exchange is White's point **22.Qxe4 Bxc6 23.Qxh4 Ng6**

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2 4 . Q g 4
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 Black any
 c h a n c e s
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make such a move. **25...Qxb2 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27.Qd3 Qc1+ 28.Nd1 Qg5 29.Ne3** [See diagram above] Black's game seems to be hanging by a thread, but unfortunately it is a strong one. **29...f5 30.Rd4 30.Ra8** was given by GM Mik-halevski after the game and is indeed best, but by this time I was just trying to get the game back in control. **30...Be4 31.Rxe4 fxe4 32.Qxe4 Qa5 33.g3 Qc7** White's position seems a bit more pleasant as his king is safer but by now I was happy to get at least half a point out of my formerly winning position. $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

Photo: First time Edmonton International organizer Rafael Arruebarrena (left) in his game versus Rozman, with Haessel in the background. Photo by Bhavik Dave.

Alberta Women's Championship

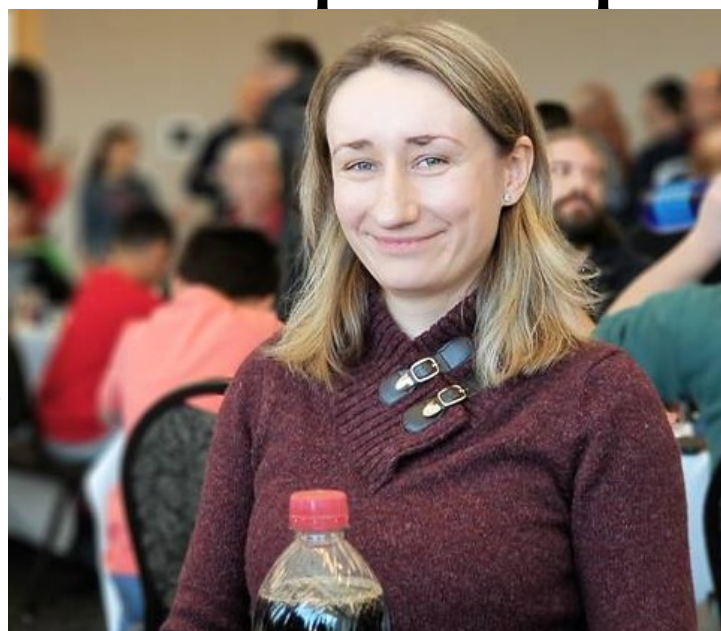
May 12-13, 2018—Calgary

WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement (2308) was expected to win this tournament handily, and she did, putting together five consecutive wins. The surprise second place finisher with 4/5 was junior Helen Chen (671) who finished better than two much higher-rated players, Donna Bird (1212) and Roni Gutin (1210). Bird and Gutin split third place with 2.5/5. Seven players attended the event, which was held alongside the Alberta Seniors Championship.

As the 2018 Canadian Women's Championship had been held early, Matras-Clement was able to use her travel grant to attend the South Saskatchewan Open, where she finished tied for second with 4/5 and scored a third round draw with GM Aman Hambleton.

Many thanks to the Calgary Chess Club for hosting and to Wojtek Kowalczewski for organizing and directing.

Photo: WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement at the 2018 Banff Open a few months later. Photo by Bhavik Dave



2018 Canadian Seniors Championship

May 12-13, 2018 &
August 3-6, 2018—Calgary

Alberta seniors were fortunate in 2018, as the Canadian Seniors Championship was held in Alberta for the first time, the final act of three different provincial senior events that year.

After the Edmonton Seniors Championship in March (where Hafiz Karmali was victorious), many seniors traveled to Calgary for the Alberta Seniors Championship.

FMs Ian Findlay (2310) and Dale Haessel (2300) tied for first with 4.5/5—their only draw was with each other in round 3. Haessel won the \$300 travel grant on tiebreak.

Twelve players total participated in the event, with organizer Jim Daniluk (1931) and Brad Booker (2118) splitting third place with 3/5.

After the provincials, seniors from across the nation came to Calgary in August for the Canadian Seniors Championship. Vlad Rekhson was the force behind bringing the national championship to Calgary, having applied to the ACA and CFC a year beforehand in an effort to secure the event.

The national championship was split into two sections: Over 50 and 65+. Local player FM Ian Findlay was the winner of the Over 50 section, coming in first out of twenty



players.

His seven-game win streak included a fifth round victory over IM Michael Barron (2318). FM Dale Haessel and CM Arpak Qanee split second place with 5/7.

The winner of the 65+ section was IM Leon Piasetski (2376), who, like Findlay, put together a perfect seven-win tournament. Brian McLaren (2141) took second with 5.5/7, and William Doubleday (2110) took third with 4.5/7.

Findlay went on to play at the 2018 World Seniors Championship in Bled, Slovenia in November, where he finished tied-19th out of just over 100 players. Several other Albertan seniors joined him, including FM Dale Haessel (7.5/11), IM Edward Porper (7/11), and Steven Peter (4.5/11).



Photo (left): Findlay, deep in thought at the Calgary International just a few weeks after the Canadian Seniors. Photo by Bhavik Dave. Above: IM Leon Piasetski, who also conducted a lecture for the Canadian Seniors.

Calgary Chess Club

#174A, 3359 27 Street NE
www.calgarychess.com

Tuesdays (7PM—): Tournament Chess
Thursdays (7PM—): Active Chess

11th Calgary International & Open



August 14-19, 2018—Calgary

Not long after the Calgary Chess Club hosted the 2018 Canadian Seniors, they also hosted the Calgary International and Open.

The annual Qualifier and Fundraiser for the event was held earlier in June. Thirty-two players participated in the Qualifier, which was organized by Brad Booker and directed by Paul Gagne. FM Ian Findlay (2315) finished in clear first with 4.5/5. Close behind him were four players

Photo, above: Round 5, which featured four GMs playing each other. Below: Vlad Rekhson deep in TD mode at the Calgary International. Below, left: GMs Zierk and Mikhalevski share the trophy. Photos by Bhavik Dave.

who finished in a tie for second—FM Isaac Garcia (2300), FM Dale Haessel (2278), CM Felix Rose (2143), and Behrooz Ebrahim-Shirazi (2047).

When it came to the main event, Grandmasters Steven Zierk (USA) and Victor Mikhalevski (Israel) were the joint



winner, both posting a score of 7.5/9, which included a third-round draw with each other. Claiming third place was GM Melikset Khachiyan (USA) with 6.5/9. Not one of the top three finishers suffered a loss in the tournament.

The highest placed Albertan finisher was GM Aman Hambleton with 6/9, while CM Rafael Arruebarrena had the best finish (5.5/9) of those looking for norms. Qualifier winner Findlay finished in tenth with 4.5/9, though he did score a seventh round draw with Zierk.

The tournament was largely short on high-level upsets; however, two Albertans scored wins over GM Enrico

Sevillano. Ian Zhao got a win in round 6, while FM Dale Haessel got one in round 8.

Twenty-seven players participated in the event, which was organized and directed by IA Vlad Rekhson. An Open tournament was held alongside the main one, and it drew an additional 12 players. Bhavik Dave (1854) and Gordon Campbell (2077) finished tied for first in that event with 4/5, though Campbell won their head-to-head matchup.

Many thanks to Vlad Rekhson for organizing and directing the events, and to the Calgary Chess Club for hosting.

Over/Under 1800

September 1-2, 2018—Edmonton

Shortly after the International, players headed to Edmonton to participate in the Over/Under 1800. The tournament had an outstanding attendance relative to its historical turnout—43 players were in attendance. The numbers split nearly equally between the Over 1800 section (20 players) and Under 1800 section (23 players).

In the top section, FM Dale Haessel (2248) was the clear victor, emerging with a score of 4/5. Behind him were four players finishing with 3.5—David Miller (2231), David Yao (1836), Omid Malek (2128), and Peter Kalisvaart (2147). Yao had a particularly good performance, netting a rating increase of more than 150 points.

In the Under section, there was a three-way tie for first place with 4/5—Hemant Srinivasan (1605), Benny Oracion (1689), and Mark Tuvera (1740).

Many thanks to Daryl Bertrand for organizing and directing, Terry Seehagen for assisting, and the Edmonton Chess Club for hosting.

In the following game, please enjoy the journeys both kings embark on—one to avoid mate, and the other to avoid a perpetual.

Dakic, Milan (1840) - Briones, Dante (1947) [C01]
2018 Over 1800 (2), 01.09.2018

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 Locally, both Dakic and Briones are known for being entertaining tactical players, and at this level the French Exchange often leads to extraordinary games. **4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Be2 h6 6.Nc3 Bd6 7.h3 Bf5 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qd2 Re8 10.0-0-0 Bb4 11.Bd3 Ne4 12.Bxe4 dxe4** Unexpected. It does bring a pawn into White's territory, but it blocks both the bishop and rook. **13.Ne5 f6 14.Ng4 c6** Allowing a tactical win of the h6 pawn. **15.Bxh6** Recapturing on h6 leads to a nearly immediate loss after 16. Nxf6+. **15...Bxg4** Unwise, allowing White to open the h-file. Black needed to try to regroup instead. **16.hxg4 Qa5 17.Bxg7! e3 17...Kxg7 18.Qh6+ Kf7 19.d5! 18.Qd3 Bxc3** See diagram right. **19.Qh7+** A good

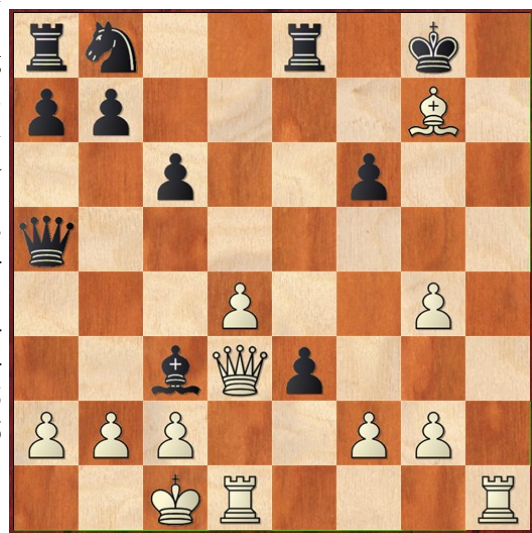
Photo, right: Perennial contender Hemant Srinivasan with organizer and director Daryl Bertrand. Photo by Bhavik Dave.



move, but missing the unstoppable mate after 19. Qg6 **19...Kf7 20.Bxf6+ Ke6** Taking

the bishop is an almost immediate mate after Rh6. **21.Qe4+ Kd6 22.Qxe8 Nd7 23.Qe7+ Kc7 24.Be5+ Kb6 25.bxc3** With the Black king relatively safe, now that it's moved all the way across the board, White intends to grab material and hang on for the win. **25...Qxc3 26.fxe3** Stopping the threatened mate on a1. **26...Rf8 27.Bf4** Best, trying to shut

down all counterplay. With nothing left to lose, Black goes all in for a try at a perpetual. **27...Rxf4 28.exf4 Qa1+ 29.Kd2 Qxd4+ 30.Ke2 Qc4+ 31.Kf2 Ne5 32.Rb1+ Ka5 33.Qe1+ 1-0**



2018 Alberta Junior Championship

November 17-18, 2018—Edmonton

Two qualifiers were held in the lead-up to the Alberta Junior Championship. In Calgary, thirty players turned out for the Calgary Junior Regional, which was organized by Angelo Tolentino and the Calgary Junior Chess Club.

Patrick Tolentino (1908) and Paul Wang (1831) were victorious in the Open section; each posted a score of 4/5. In the Under-1300 section, Matthew McLure (unrated) and Dulguun Bayarsaikhan (1245) finished first and second with 6.5/7 and 5.5/7 respectively. For the Under-800 section, Matt Fu (722) and Daniel Liu (709) were perfect, scoring six wins and drawing each other.

In Edmonton, Dustin Koperski organized and directed the Edmonton Junior Regional, also held on the same date in September. Twenty-three players turned up for the event.

In the Open section, Mark Ivanescu (1934) won with 4/5, while second place was split between Andi Superceanu (1777), Ron Offengenden (1716), and Julian Lau (1677) with 3.5/5. Lau managed to defeat Ivanescu early in the tournament, but then drew Offengenden and lost to Superceanu, both of whom lost to Ivanescu.

In the Under 1300 section, Alex Wang (1061) was the clear winner, posting a score of 6/7, while Kevin Huang (1049) claimed second with 5.5/7.



Mark Ivanescu and Paul Wang played in the Alberta Junior Championship in Edmonton in November as the Regional winners (Wang on tiebreak over Tolentino). They were joined by the four



Photo: Alberta Junior Champion Aditya Raninga at the Edmonton Fall Sectional. Left: Lucy Cao, four-time winner of the Girls Championship (2015-2018), photographed at the Northern Alberta Open. Photos by Bhavik Dave.

highest rated juniors who were available for the main event—Aditya Raninga (2007, Calgary), David Yao (1982, Edmonton), Maxim Vasic (2024, Calgary), and Patrick Tolentino (1931, Calgary).

Aditya Raninga emerged as the clear winner after claiming draws with Ivanescu and Tolentino and defeating the other three players. David Yao and Maxim Vasic split second with 3/5, though Vasic claimed the head-to-head victory between the two.

In the Open section, Andre Tolentino (1778) and Julian Lau (1748) split first with 4/5, though Lau again had the head-to-head victory. In the Under-1300 section, Shreyas Prasanna (1177) posted an excellent score of 6.5/7, while Matthew Ivanescu (1270) put together a 5.5/7 run.

A small Girls championship was also held alongside the other sections. Lucy Cao (1794) posted a score of 3.5/4, and Michelle Mo (1683) came in second with 3/4. This was Lucy's fourth consecutive Alberta Girls Championship.

In total, forty players participated. Many thanks to Dustin Koperski and the Edmonton Chess Club for their efforts in this event.

2018 Junior Battle of Alberta

September 29, 2018—Red Deer

The ACA restarted the Junior Battle of Alberta in 2018. The odds were against Team North, as the Calgary Junior program has been immensely strong over the last few years. Team North organizer Cristian Ivanescu put his best effort into recruiting for the event, while Vlad Rekhson had an easier task with Team South.

While the format still matched up twelve of the best players from the North versus twelve from the South, it was not a straight matchup of the best versus the best. Instead, only five players for each side participated in the Open section, while five were pulled from the Under-12 pool of talent and two from the Girls section.

Instead of being part of the main event, the girls played each other, with the top girl from North taking on the top from the South, in an organizing decision that was not without controversy. Notably, either of Team North's girls could have made the Open section on rating.

The Under-12 section also only played within its own pool, which resulted in some strange, artificial rating imbalances. Anand Rishi Chandra would have been the overall board two for the South, but was instead playing board one of the U-12 section.

The strength of Team North's girls made the average rating closer than expected—1766 for the South and 1761 for the North, but with so much firepower concentrated in the Girls section, Team North was outmatched on 7.5 out of the twelve boards.

When it came to the actual event, Team North was competitive in round 2, but the slow start in round 1 meant that the final score wasn't close – Team South won 17-7.

In the end, six players posted perfect 2/2 scores, including five from Team South: Ian Zhao (2229), Maxim Vasic (1938), Hemant Srinivasan (1804), Andrew Chen (1807), and Aditya Ranninga (1909). Lucy Cao (1823) was the sole 2/2 winner for Team North. Many thanks to the two captains and to Alexey Taranik for putting this tournament together, and a strong congratulations to Team South on securing their dominating victory.



Top photo: South members celebrate with the trophy. Middle: Chandra versus Mark Ivanescu on the top U-12 board. Bottom: the top overall board, Zhao—David Yao.

2018 Banff Open



November 10-12, 2018—Banff

Ian Findlay has been working hard to build an extraordinary tournament in Banff, making significant improvements and adjustments every year in order to put together the best possible event. Among his upgrades this year was bringing in renowned IA Mark Dutton as the tournament director.

The tournament room—provided by the Banff Centre for the Arts—was as spectacular as always, and there were plenty of side events and treats on hand to keep the players happy.

Attendance came in at seventy-eight players, the highest turnout for a non-junior event in recent memory. Multiple titled players joined, including three International Masters, all from outside Alberta.

Please enjoy Findlay's report of the event below.

2018 Banff Open – 3 Way Tie Armageddon Playoff

By Ian Findlay

The 2018 Banff Open saw a three-way tie for first place between IM Mark Ginsburg, FM Ian Findlay and Omid Malek with 5/6, but only after IM Thanh Nha Duong let a winning position slip into a lost position, moving him from clear winner to 4th place with 4 ½ and out of the money.



We were very fortunate to have an anonymous donor contribute \$500 to the 1st place prize, on the condition that if there was a tie, there would be a playoff for the \$500! This certainly led to an exciting finish. There were many spectators who stayed behind to watch the playoff, but in honesty, most of them were waiting to collect their prizes.

As per the playoff rules, Mark Ginsburg, who had the best tiebreak, would get a bye into the finals. I had second best tiebreak, so I chose black. I would get 4 minutes to White's 5 minutes, but would get draw odds.

Omid and I played a closed Sicilian, which was a very close battle, until Omid blundered a piece around move 35.

This did not matter much since the game was going to be decided on time. Omid, being the gentleman that he is, called his own flag when I still had 9 seconds on my clock.

This set up a final between Mark Ginsburg and myself. Mark and I go back a long way. In the eighties, I used to stay at his apartment in NYC when playing in the New York Open. He shared an apartment with GM Michael Rhode, GM John Fedorowicz and GM at bridge, Michael Polowan.

Since I have started playing chess again, we have reconnected, and last year he stayed at my house and won the Banff Open.

This year, he got his choice in the final Armageddon playoff. He chose black.

Mark played a Modern Defence. Normally he is a Taimanov Sicilian player, so this came as a bit of a surprise. I did have some chance early on, but Mark soon outplayed me to win his well-deserved 2nd Banff Open in a row.

Our tournament has grown from 33 players to 41 players to 78 players. Hopefully in 2019 we will hit our maximum 100 entries.

I would like to thank our sponsors, The Alberta Chess Association, The Canadian Union of Public Employees

Photo, left: IA Mark Dutton watches over the end of Omid Malek's game. Above: the venue. Photos by Bhavik Dave.

Local 4318 and The Society of Chess Aficionados. Also many thanks to the Banff Centre for a great venue, with postcard picture views of the mountains and their well-organized staff. A big thank you to our anonymous donor who made the tournament so exciting this year by donating the \$500 bonus money. It will be hard to top next year, but we will try. Thank you also to our chief Arbiter, IA IO Mark Dutton and his lovely wife Christine, the Assistant Arbiter and of course my wife, Janice, for all her hard work to provide a dinner reception at our house for the players and their significant others.

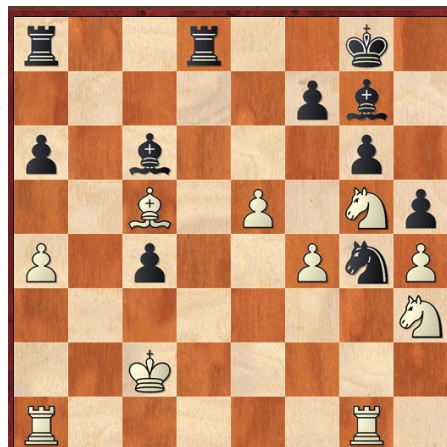
Findlay, Ian - Ginsburg, Mark [B06]

Banff Open, 2018, 12.11.2018

[Ian]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Bb7 7.h4 h5 8.Nh3 Nd7 9.Ng5 c5 10.a4 b4? 11.Ne2?! Better was 11.Bc4! to meet 11...bxc3 12. Bxf7+ Kf8 13.Ne6+ Kxf7 14. Nxd8+. Black would have to play 11...e6, when after 12. Ne2, I have got my bishop out and better development. 11...Ngf6 12.c3 bxc3 13.bxc3 0-0 White is slightly better. Time on the clock white:4:24 black: 3:20. White started with 5 minutes, Black with 4 minutes and Black gets draw odds. 14.Nf4? Allowing Black to play e5 with tempo. Qa2 is Houdini's move, but Ng3 is the more human move and White will be slightly better. 14...cxd4 e5 right away may be more accurate. 15.cxd4 e5! 16.Nfh3? Retreating is not the way to win. As Lawrence Day commented on FB, Nfe6 to maximize uncertainty. dxe5 followed by Nd3 and White will still be a bit better. 16...d5! Black blasts opens the centre while White has still not de-

veloped. 17.dxe5?! I had a plan to shut in Black's bishop with e5 and f4, but White is now 'busted' as Fischer used to say. 17...Nxe5 18.f4 Nc4 19.Bxc4 dxc4 20.e5 Ng4 21.Bc5 Qxd2+ 22.Kxd2 Rfd8+ 23. K c 2 B x g 2 24.Rhg1 Bc6 [See diagram] Time on clock white:2:54



black: 2:39. Black is clearly winning, but with no time increments, anything could still happen. 25.a5 Rd5 26.Bb6 Rc8 27.Rgd1 Rxd1 28.Kxd1 Bd7 29.Rc1 Bf5 30.Kd2 f6! Opening up the bishop. White is dead. 31.Nf3 Nxe5 32.fxe5 Bxh3 33.Bd4 Bh6+ 34.Be3 Bxe3+? c3+ was the killer. Black is still better however. 35.Kxe3 Bg4 36.Nd2 fxe5 37.Rxc4 Rxc4? Allowing White to equalize, but Black only needs a draw to win, so not a horrible decision. Also, White has 1:15 to Black's 1:00. 38.Nxc4 Kg7 39.Nxe5 Kf6 40.Kf4 Of course Nxc4 would be a draw, but then I would lose the tiebreak, so my winning attempt, but down a pawn, it is quite hopeless. Time 1:03 to 37 seconds. 40...Be2 41.Nd7+ Kg7 42.Kg5 Bd3 43.Ne5 Bf5 44.Nc6 Bd3 45.Nb8?? Bb5! Now White's knight is trapped and Black is winning again. Final times, white:55s black 30s. Not a great game, but entertaining for the many spectators who stayed behind. 0-1

2018 Southern Alberta Open



November 24-25, 2018—Calgary

It was probably a surprise to all when the winner of the Southern Alberta Open—and automatic qualifier to the Alberta Closed—wasn't a Southerner at all, but rather David Miller (2233) of Edmonton, who, in winning the event, was able to line up his first shot at the Alberta Championship. Miller finished with 4.5/5, in clear first place out of a field of thirty-five (though to be fair, he was the highest rated player in the field, though not by much).

Junior Andrew Chen (2059) finished in second place with 4/5, while eight(!) players tied for third place with 3.5/5.

Many thanks to the Calgary Chess Club and Stefan Sklenka for organizing the event.

Photos: First and second place finishers David Miller (r) and Andrew Chen. Photos by Bhavik Dave.



2018 Alberta Open

October 6-8, 2018—Calgary

The 2018 Alberta Open served as a wake-up call to those who hadn't been paying attention to then 13-year old junior Ian Zhao. Zhao (2236) put together an impressive score of 5.5/6, landing him in sole first place. The only person to score a draw off of him was Omid Malek (2135) in round 5. Malek finished tied with FM Ian Findlay (2347) with a score of 5/6—good enough for second place.

An amazing 62 players participated in the event, undoubtedly due to the organizing efforts of Steve Sklenka. The event also showed off the recently renovated space at the Calgary Chess Club.

As winner, Zhao earned his first chance to qualify to the Alberta Closed in 2019—the first junior to do so since IM Richard Wang in 2015. He is also one of the youngest-ever qualifiers to the event.

Numerous class prizes were given out at the Open, and the prize fund topped \$2,000.

In this large of a tournament, there were numerous upsets to be found: FM Dale Haessel (2251) went on tilt and suffered draws to Nicholas Lee (1816) and Jency Sanchez (1599), in addition to losing to Michael Decaire (1838). Lee in particular had an excellent performance, gaining nearly 150 points in the event.

Jacob Collins (1468) gained closer to 200 points, thanks in part to beating Andrew Chen (1824) and drawing Sean Perron (2092). Another major upset came when junior Parth Sheth (1117) held Pat Moore (1796) to a draw.

The ACA's Annual General Meeting, held on Sunday between rounds, was the most vigorously attended and contested AGM in recent memory. More than sixty people showed up for the event, which saw Angelo Tolentino (Calgary) elected to a one-year presidency for the ACA. Jim Daniluk (Calgary) signed on for another two-year term as vice-president, as did Ian Findlay (Banff) as secretary. Meanwhile, Vlad Rekhson (Calgary) moved to the position of past president, replacing David Miller, and four new directors were elected: Frank Kluytmans (Calgary), Rafael Arruebarrena (Edmonton), Guoliang Wu (Calgary), and Magda Marais (Fort McMurray).

Jina Burn's position as director had been open since her death the month previous, and she has been dearly missed on the board. The other outgoing directors were Brad Booker, Terry Seehagen, and Giridhar Koneru, and the ACA gives them many thanks for their service.

In 2019, the AGM will be held in Edmonton during the Alberta Open. Up for election are the two-year positions of president, treasurer, and four directors. These positions are currently held by Tolentino, Ali Razzaq, Jordan Rohatynski, Dale Haessel, Wojtek Kowalczewski, and Daryl Bertrand.



Top: Junior Ian Zhao at the Calgary International a few months earlier. Middle: The spread offered for players. Bottom: Aditya Raninga looks on at the first round game of Jason Green—Rafael Arruebarrena. Green earned a surprise draw, upsetting Arruebarrena's hopes for the tournament. Photos by Bhavik Dave.



Edmonton Fall Sectional

Oct 26-28, 2018—Edmonton

Micah Hughey organized a strong fall sectional, bringing in 30 players to play at the ECC in late October. Section A went a little awry when FM Blagoj Gicev was forced to withdraw two games into the tournament, which left his draw with FM Ian Findlay and his loss to Butch Villavieja off the standings. The remaining players continued on, and FM Findlay (2348) emerged victorious with 3.5/4, while Villavieja (2104) scored 2/4, and everyone else was left with 1.5/4.

In section B, Aditya Raninga (1908) put together an impressive tournament with a final score of 4/5. Dustin Koperski (1868) managed to come in second with 3.5/5 despite doing double duty as a tournament director.

Section C was heavy on juniors, including all the winners. Andrew Chen (1805) was first with 4/5, while Andi Superceanu (1782) and Lucy Cao (1822) split second with 3/5.

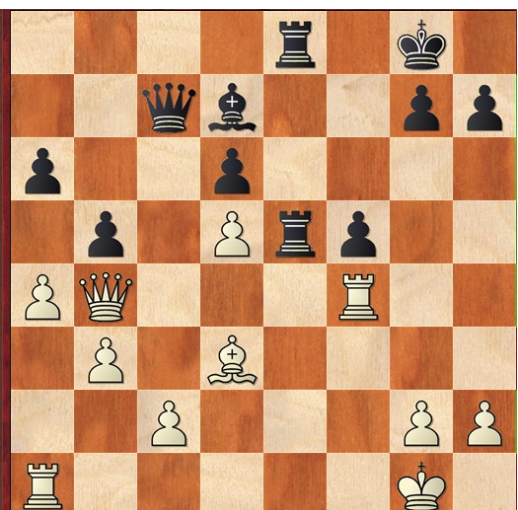
In section D, Jonathan Maxwell (1687) scored 4/5, and Gholamreza Afraz (1723) and Damon MacLeod (1825) put together scores of 3.5/5.

Finally, in section E, Ricky Chen (1454), Dean MacDonald (1455), and Yash Darvekar (1530) all finished with scores of 3/5. Many thanks to Micah Hughey for organizing, Dustin Koperski for directing, and the Edmonton Chess Club for hosting.

In the following game, Calgary junior Aditya Raninga shows great care in carrying out a favorable same-color bishop ending against a more experienced foe.

Raniga, Aditya (1908) - Daniluk, Jim (1920) [B33]
2018 Edmonton Fall Sectional, 26.10.2018

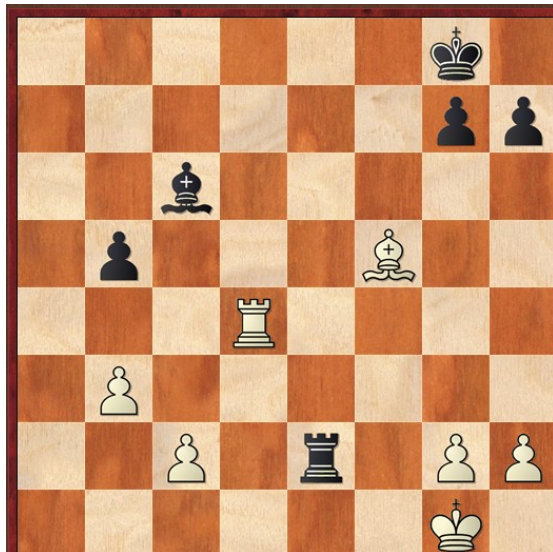
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8 9.a4 Most popular at the highest levels, but still less common than c4. 9...Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 a6



10 11.0-0 a6
Carlsen, Gelfand, etc chose
11. Nd7 instead. 12.Na3
Nd7 13.Be3 f5
14.f4 Bf6
15.Nc4 White has been gaining time on the clock. 15...Qe7
16.fxe5 Nxe5
17.Bd4 Re8
18.Bxe5 Bxe5
19.Bd3 Qh4

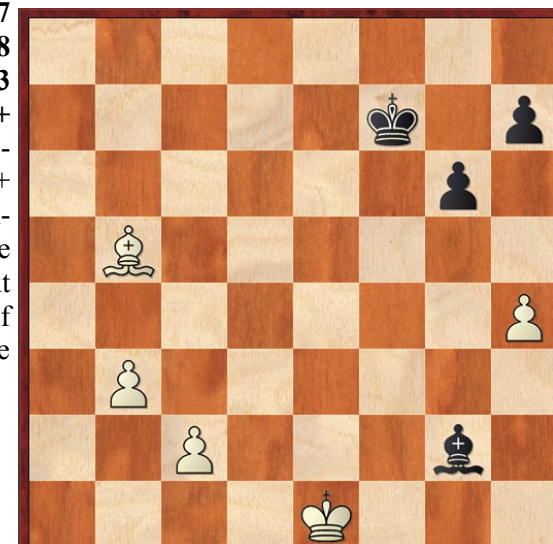
20.Nxe5 Rxe5 21.b3 Preventing Rxd5. 21...Bd7 22.Qf3 Rae8 23.Qf4 Qd8 24.Qb4 Qc7 25.Rf4 b5 See diagram previous column. Designed to allow Rxd5, but at the cost of opening the a-file for White. Black was in time pressure at this point.

26.a x b 5
a x b 5
27.R a 6
Looks natural, but the computer finds 27. Qd4, which could enable the more annoying R a 7 .
27...R x d 5
28.R d 4
R x d 4
29.Q x d 4



Qc5? Black will have difficulty with his pawns in the endgame. 30.Rxd6 Qxd4+ 31.Rxd4 Bc6 32.Bxf5 Re2 See diagram above. 33.Rg4 The computer finds 33.Rd6! Rxd6? 34.Kf1 Bf3 35.Rd3 Bc6 36.Rc3 The rook is able to chase the bishop until Black is forced to give up the exchange. 33...Bd5 34.Bd3 Rd2 35.Kf1 g6 35...Bxb3 36.Ke1! Rxc2 37.Bxc2 Bxc2± 36.h4 Kf7 37.Ke1 Forcing a favorable same-color bishop ending. 37...Rxd2 38.Rxd2 Bxd2 39.Bxb5 See diagram below. White's connected outside passers should win this, but he must be cautious. 39...h6 40.Kf2 Be4 41.c4 Ke7 42.Ke3 Bc2 43.b4 Only winning move. 43.Ba4? g5! White's bishop and b3 pawn are stuck while Black gains play on the kingside. 43...Kd6 44.Kd4 g5 45.hxg5 hxg5 46.c5+ Kc7 47.Bd3 Bd1 48.b5 g4 49.b6+ Kc8 50.Ba6+ 50. c6 directly is a slightly faster mate.

50...K d 7
51.Bb5+ Kc8
52.c6 Bf3
53.B a 6 +
Black resigns. c7+ and an eventual mate are coming next regardless of where he moves. 1-0



WBX Team Tournament



December 15-16, 2018—Edmonton

Always the final tournament of the year, the popular WBX Team Tournament got off to a slow start in 2018, until a rush of teams near the deadline turned it into one of the best attended team tournaments in years. Thirty-nine players participated in the event, comprising twelve different teams.

The event ended in a tie between two teams with 10.5/15—one Edmonton team made of CM Rafael Arruebarrena (2340, 4.5/5); David Yao (1991, 3/5); and Yash Darvekar (1465, 3/5); and a Calgary team made of Ian Zhao (2264, 3/5); Aditya Raninga (2070, 4/5); and Kevin Qin (1592, 3.5/5). The juniors made the difference in this tournament—of the six players on the top two teams, five of them were under-18.

Third place went to Omid Malek’s team of himself (2178, 5/5); Bhavik Dave (1907, 2.5/5); and Hemant Srinivasan (1912, 2.5/5) with 10/15. Malek also earned the distinction of being one of only two players to post a perfect 5/5 score, and in doing so, he claimed the Board 1 prize for best individual performance.

For Board 2, three players tied for the best perform-

ance with 4/5: Raninga, Mark Ivanescu (1946), and Peter Kalisvaart (2100). Board 3 registered the other perfect score: 5/5 for Ali Razzaq (1825).

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to Terry Seehagen for organizing and directing one of the more difficult tournaments on the ACA calendar.

Photos—(top, left to right) Qin, Raninga, and Zhao with the trophy. (Next, left to right) Arruebarrena, Darvekar, and Yao. Bottom, right: Organizer and director Terry Seehagen (right) with Board 1 winner Omid Malek. Photos by Bhavik Dave.

Medicine Hat Chess Club

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email: taylormlw@shaw.ca
www.mhchess.com



Contact Wade Caughlin
wade.caughlin@sunlife.com
www.gpchessclub.com

Edmonton Chess Club

#204, 10840 124 Street NW
(780) 424-0283

Mondays (6:30 PM—): Rapid Chess
Thursdays (6:30 PM—): Tournament Chess
Saturdays (12:45PM—5PM): Call for schedule.

Wrapping Up

Top 10 FIDE Rated Albertans

December 1, 2018—Active Residents Only

1	GM Eric Hansen	2615
2	GM Aman Hambleton	2489
3	IM Bitan Banerjee	2427
4	IM Richard Wang	2324
5	FM Blagoj Gicev	2283
6	FM Loren Laceste	2267
7	Belsar Valencia	2264
8	CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2256
9	FM Ian Findlay	2255
10	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2253

Calgary Junior Chess Club
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Okotoks Library, 7 Riverside Dr. West
Seasonal Hours
Richard Bradley: (403) 938-2220
richard.bradley@shaw.ca

La Crete Chess Club
Seasonal Hours
Contact: Chris White
(780) 821-0044 (Cell)
cwnlca@gmail.com

Portage College (Lac La Biche)
Contact: Leslie Boake
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111-304 Main Street SE
Seasonal Hours
Contact: Susanne Rempel

University of Lethbridge Chess Club
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Medicine Hat Chess Club
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Lethbridge Junior Chess Club
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Top 20 CFC Rated Albertans

Active Residents—Dec 1, 2018

1	GM Eric Hansen	2625
2	GM Aman Hambleton	2536
3	IM Bitan Banerjee	2530
4	IM Richard Wang	2410
5	FM Gary Ng	2388
6	Belsar Valencia	2356
7	FM Ian Findlay	2350
8	FM Blagoj Gicev	2348
9	CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2340
10	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2312
11	Anuar Caldera	2298
12	WIM A. Matras-Clement	2293
13	FM Loren Laceste	2280
14	FM Diwen Shi	2281
15	Ian Zhao	2264
16	Jeff Reeve	2258
17	David Miller	2241
18	FM Dale Haessel	2224
19	Rob Gardner	2214
20	Georgi Kostadinov	2194

Banff Chess Academy

101 Bear Street — above the library
Seasonal Hours
Active games
Contact Jonathan Day
Email: albertachessday@gmail.com

2019 ACA Tournament Schedule

All tournaments subject to change by the ACA and/or organizer. Tournaments with an * are *Road Warrior* events. For updated info, please visit our website: albertachess.org/home/schedule

Dates	Tournament	Organizer	Location
Jan 4-6	Schleinich Memorial*	Steve Sklenka	Calgary
Feb 9	Calgary Regional Youth Chess Champ.	Angelo Tolentino	Calgary
Feb 9-10	Northern Alberta Open*	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton
Feb 10	Wood Buffalo Youth Chess Championship	Magda Marais	Fort McMurray
Feb 23	University Battle of Alberta	Kevin Zhao/U of C	Calgary
Feb 23	Edmonton Youth Chess Championship	Cristian Ivanescu/David Yao	Edmonton
Mar 9-10	3rd Steinitz-Menchik Chess Classic*	Steve Sklenka	Calgary
Mar 23	Alberta Chess Challenge	Vera Li/Angelo Tolentino	Red Deer
Mar 23-24	Calgary Seniors Championship	Steve Sklenka	Calgary
April 6-7	Lethbridge Open*	Jerry Mikusek	Lethbridge
April 13	Alberta Active Championship*	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer
April 19-21	Alberta Closed and Reserves*	Steve Sklenka	Calgary
April 20-21	Alberta Youth Chess Championship	Magda Marais	Fort McMurray
May 4-5	Edmonton International Qualifier/Fundraiser*	Jordan Rohatynski	Edmonton
May 11-12	AB Seniors/Women's Championships	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton
June 1-2	36th Trumpeter Classic*	Wade Caughlin/Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie
June 8-9	Calgary International Qualifier/Fundraiser*	Dale Haessel	Calgary
June 18-23	14th Edmonton International & Open*	Rafael Arruebarrena	Edmonton
June 30-July 1	Jina Burn Fort McMurray Open*	Magda Marais	Fort McMurray
July 31-Aug 5	Calgary International & Open*	Dale Haessel	Calgary
Aug 17-18	Over/Under 1800*	Dale Haessel	Calgary
Sep 7	Battle of Alberta	Arruebarrena/Taranik/Malek	Red Deer
Sep 14-15	Calgary/Edmonton Junior Regionals	Angelo Tolentino/Dustin Kop.	Calgary/Edmonton
Sept 21-22	25th Medicine Hat Open*	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Sep 28	Junior Battle of Alberta	Vlad Rekhson/Cristian Ivanescu	Red Deer
Oct 12-14	Alberta Open*	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton
Oct 25-27	Edmonton Fall Sectional*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Nov 9-11	Banff Open*	Ian Findlay	Banff
Nov 16-17	Alberta Junior Championship	Paul Gagne	Calgary
Nov 23-24	Southern Alberta Open*	Steve Sklenka	Calgary
Dec 14-15	WBX Team Tournament*	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton