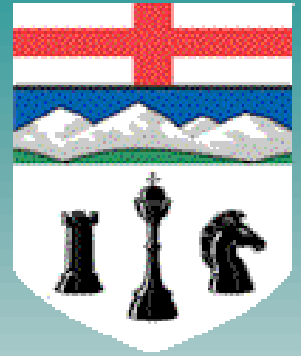


Alberta Chess Report

Publication of the Alberta Chess Association ♦ October 2017

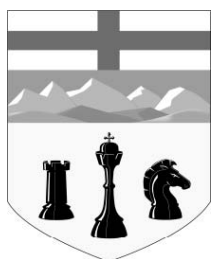


Inside

Mikhalevski wins the 10th Calgary International Chess Classic; Team North claims their fourth consecutive Battle of Alberta title, and the Alberta Women's Championship is held.



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The Alberta Chess Report is a quarterly publication. Submissions are due on the 10th of the month following the quarter: January 10th, April 10th, July 10th, & October 10th. Submissions can include photos, chess-related articles of interest, tournament reports, or game analysis. For other submissions, please contact the editor. Submissions welcome!

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The materials contained in this publication do not reflect the opinions of the Alberta Chess Association. All articles are written by the editor, Leah Hughey, unless otherwise credited.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I am now taking submissions for the January/April 2018 edition of the Alberta Chess Report. Tournaments covered in that issue include the Alberta Open, Edmonton Fall Sectional, Banff Open, Alberta Junior Championship & SPFGI qualifier, Southern Alberta Open, and the WBX Tournament, among others.



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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.



Battle of Alberta

September 9, 2017—Red Deer

Team South last hoisted the Battle of Alberta trophy in 2013, and the three consecutive losses since then meant they were looking for another new captain. They found him in Gary Ng, who also had the task of facing off with Bitan Banerjee on Board 1. For Team North, Micah Hughey returned as captain for at least the twelfth year.

On paper, the matchup was close. Team North was favored on the top six boards, while Team South was favored on the bottom six. The South had a whopping two-point average rating advantage overall.

Round 1 showed promise for Team South. Ng upset Banerjee in a difficult game, and the South won three out of the four bottom boards. However, there were missteps. Martins Efemuai had a cell phone forfeit on board seven while in a nearly-winning position (+1.7), and Rekhson-Gardner somehow ended up in a win for Robert Gardner, despite Gardner being utterly lost throughout a good portion of the game. By the end of Round 1, Team North had racked up a 7-5 advantage. Here are two of the games from the first round.

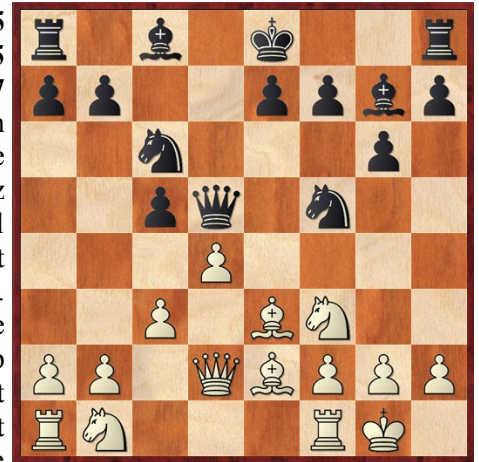
Below: Gary Ng (left) and Micah Hughey (right), the two captains this year. Photos by Bhavik Dave.



Ng, Gary (2259) - Banerjee, Bitan (2386) [B06]
2017 Battle of Alberta (1), 09.09.2017

1.Nf3 g6 2.e4 c5
3.c3 d5 4.exd5
Qxd5 5.d4 Bg7
6.Be3

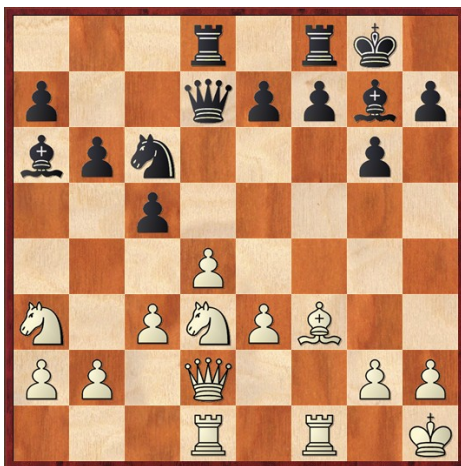
This position seems to be more common in blitz than classical games, at least at the top levels. 6. Na3 seems to be the choice of the top GMs here, but it doesn't score that well. The text move



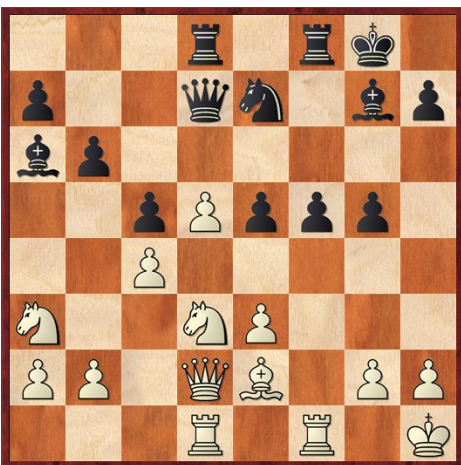
is less common but scores better. **6...Nc6** Surprisingly, a new move in the database. 6. ...Nf6, cxd4, and Nh6 have been played by GMs. **7.Be2 Nh6 8.Qd2** If 8.dxc5 it's not clear what compensation Black has for the pawn. **8...Nf5 9.0-0** [See diagram above.] The computer evaluation swings in favor of Black. The only move it liked for White was taking the c-pawn. **9...Nxe3** Grabbing the bishop pair



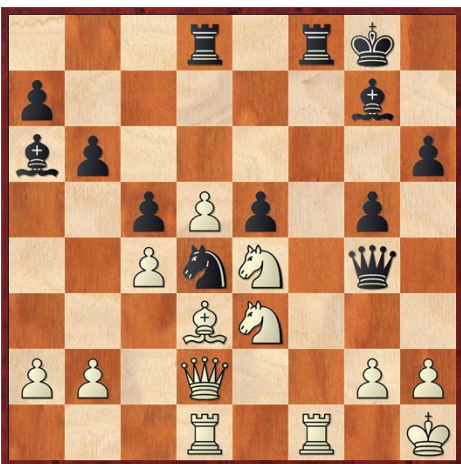
rather than the pawn. If 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Ncxd4 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.Rd1 12.Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 Qe5 favors Black. Instead, Black allows White to shore up the weak d-pawn. 10.fxe3 0-0 11.Na3 b6 12.Ne1 Bb7 13.Bf3 Qd7 14.Nd3 Rad8 15.Rad1 Ba6 16.Kh1 [See diagram



Guarding against sacrifices on d4 by getting the king off the checking diagonal. If White did a nothing move instead, see: 16.h3 cxd4 17.exd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Qxd4+ Winning for Black. 16...e5 17.d5 Ne7 18.c4 f5 19.Be2 g5 [See diagram below] The computer was favoring

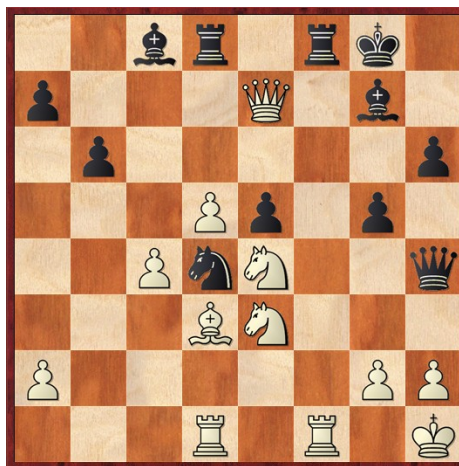


Black until this aggressive, but loosening move. White will show why it wasn't wise. 20.e4 Black can try taking the e4 pawn but can't hang on to it. 20...h6 21.Nf2 Nc8 22.exf5 Nd6 23.Bd3 Nxf5 24.Ne4 Any attempt to undermine White's passed d-pawn with b5 is



tactically unsound. 24...Nd4 25.Nc2 Qg4 26.Ne3 [See diagram below] White has built a strong advantage. His passed pawn is secure, and his knights have great potential. Meanwhile, Black's bishops are both fairly inactive, and though he has a great knight on d4, the queen is getting surrounded by minor pieces. 26...Qh4? Black needed to drop back and defend. 27.b4! Other moves are favorable for White, but this is the only one with a clear win. The idea here is to give the white queen a path into Black's territory while Black's queen can't get back. 27...cxb4 Black can't hold on to the pawn, due to the threat of 28. bxc5 bxc5 29. Qa5 28.Qxb4 Bc8 29.Qe7! [See dia-

gram right] Black seems to realize the danger. Kh8 30.Nd6 Kg8 31.Rf7 Rxf7 32.Qxf7+ Kh8 33.Qg6 Black would have to give up his queen to stop mate. 1-0



Fortunately for Team North, Banerjee got his revenge in Round 2, in an excellent, uncompromising game.

In the following game, Black makes a small error that quickly cascades as White makes a show of exploiting the mistake. Important here are the impositions made by a passed pawn deep in Black's territory, drawing his pieces toward it while simultaneously preventing those pieces from moving around freely.

Arkelian, Hernadzi (2100) - Kobalenko, Jerry (2145) [B41] 2017 Battle of Alberta (1), 09.09.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Qd3 More common is 7. Bd3, but top-level players overwhelmingly prefer Qd3. 7...Qc7 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.Be3 b5 11.0-0 e5? [See diagram] Problematic, but certainly something Black can recover from. Best instead is castling. 12.cxb5

Tactically, a free pawn for White. 12...0-0? There are problems with recapturing the b5 pawn, although recapturing is the best move. If 12...axb5 13.Nxb5 It's best to move the queen here and simply play on the knight with 13...cxb5?? then the basic tactic 14.Qxb5+ wins the piece back and Black is already in a losing position. 13.b6 This turns into a critical pawn in the middle game. White is well positioned to back it up and keep it on the board. 13...Qb7 14.Na4 Be6 15.a3 Rfd8 16.Qc2 Be7 17.Rac1 Rdc8 18.b4 Nd7 19.Rfd1 a5 20.Nc5 [See diagram on the following page] Now we see one of the many advantages of the passed b6 pawn. It's playing an active role in the middle game, forcing Black into an unwanted trade by taking away the black queen's squares. 20...Nxc5 21.bxc5 White has managed to fix his pawn structure while firmly backing up





Above: Georgi Kostadinov. Kostadinov was one of three people who posted perfect 2/2 scores. The others were Daryl Bertrand and Rafael Arruebarrena. Photo by Bhavik Dave.



the critical b6 pawn. Black falls apart quickly after this. **21...a4 22.Qc3 h6 23.Qxe5 Bf6 24.Qg3 Rd8 25.Bxh6 Kh7 26.e5 gxh6 27.exf6 1-0** Down by two points after round 1, Team South knew they needed to pull out everything they had to have any

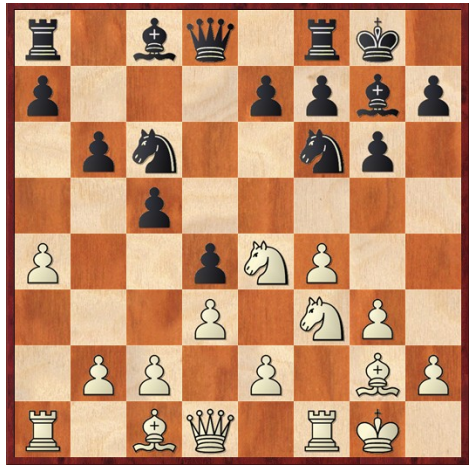
hope of coming back.

While the end of Arruebarrena-Kazmaier featured nice tactics and a win for White, the most entertaining was undoubtedly Gardner-Rekhsen, which almost inexplicably ended in a draw. This game featured a little of everything—an early mistake, a great sacrifice, and a complicated, unbalanced endgame.

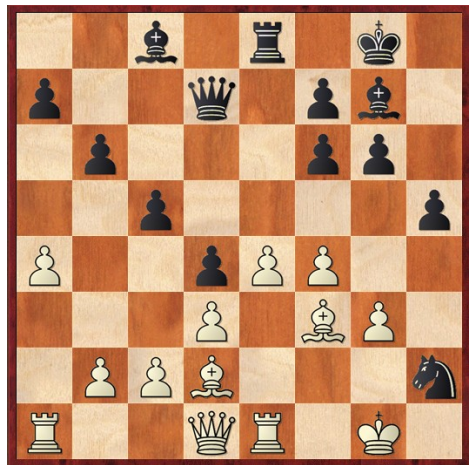
Gardner, Robert (2267) - Rekhsen, Vladislav (2182) [A03] 2017 Battle of Alberta (2), 09.09.2017

1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.f4 Uncommon, but it scores well. Kamsky played this in a blindfold game against Leko in 2012 and won. **3...c5 4.Nf3 g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.d3** Interestingly, of the 202 games in the database in this position, every move played is split nearly perfectly with 1/3 wins for White, 1/3 draws, and 1/3 wins for Black. **6...Nc6 7.a4 0-0 8.Nc3 d4 9.Ne4 b6?** [See diagram following page] If it doesn't look like Black can afford to open this diagonal, it's because he can't. White has a tactical win of material. Prior to this move, Black's position was favorable. **10.Ne5 Nxe5**

11.Nxf6+ exf6 12.Bxa8 Ng4 13.Bf3 Black played out the loss of material as best he could, and the computer is giving him some compensation for the exchange. **13...Re8?** Black needed to shore up the knight. Moving the rook over allows for the cute response **14.e4!** The pawn can't be taken en passant due to the double attack on the knight. **14...h5 15.Re1 Qd7 16.Bd2** Still better for White, but this allows for an interesting sac, where White has plenty of ways to go wrong.



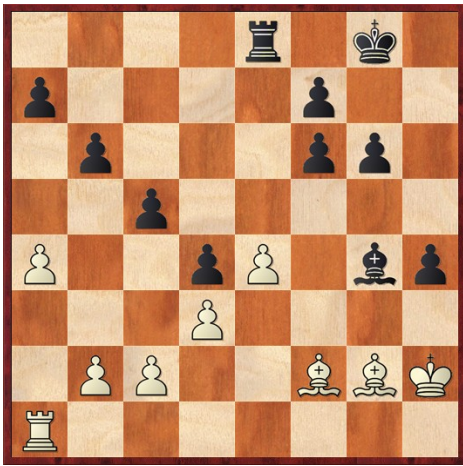
16...Nxb2! [See diagram right] **17.Kxh2 Qh3+ 18.Kg1 Qxg3+ 19.Bg2** Definitely not 19. Kf1, which is mate in three. **19. Kf1 Bh3+ 20.Ke2 Qh2+ 21.Bg2 Qxg2#** And 19. Kh1 would simply be a repetition. **19...Bg4 20.Re2** Forced. If the queen runs away, 20.



...Bf3 wins a significant amount of material, as White is forced to give up his rook to stop mate. **20...h4 21.Be1 Qxf4** [See diagram below] **22.Qd2** White has been finding

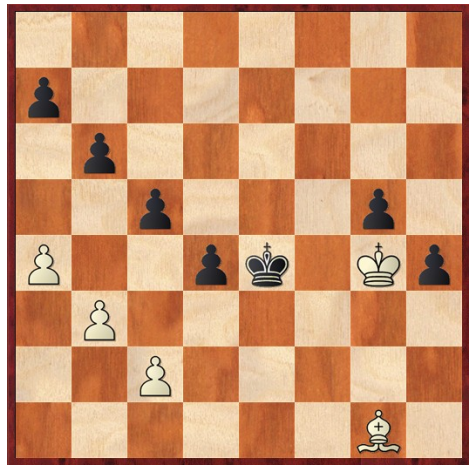


the only moves to keep a strong advantage. Here, however, **22. Rf2** would have more favorable. **22. Rf2 Qxf2+ 23.Bxf2 Bxd1 24.Rxd1** In the resulting position, White has more options than in the game. **22...Bh6 23.Qxf4 Bxf4 24.Rf2 Be3 25.Kh2 Bxf2 26.Bxf2** [See diagram following page] Compare this position to the variation listed above. Here, Black was left with the stronger bishop, and White finds it necessary to trade it off instead of maintaining the bishop pair. In the other position, Black was stuck with a bad bishop on g7. **26...g5 27.Bh3**



Bxh3 28.Kxh3 f5
29. Re1 fxe4
30. Rxe4 Rxe4
31.dxe4 Counting the material, White has bishop and four pawns versus seven pawns. The computer is giving an equal score. Black can tie up the white king with those passed pawns, and Black's advanced

Kd2 40.Bxa7 Kxc2
41.Bxb6 d3 Only move. **42.Ba5 Kxb3** Another only move. **43. Kg4 Kxa4**
44.Be1 c4 45.Kxg5 Kb3 46.Kf4 c3
47.Ke3 Kc2 Another only move! With queening to follow shortly. **36...d3?** Back to a draw. **37.cxd3+ Kxd3 38.Bh2?**



pawns on the queenside are also a factor. The bishop has its work cut out for it. **31...Kg7 32.e5** Somehow this is the only good move for White. **32...f6 33.exf6+ Kxf6 34.Kg4** Again, the only move that keeps equality. Crucial here and throughout the next few moves is keeping the black king out of White's territory. **34...Ke5 35.b3?** Only **35.Kxg5** saves the game, taking out one of the passed pawns while the bishop is still able to help. **35...Ke4 36.Bg1** [See diagram following page] This is absolutely winning for Black, particularly with **36. ...h3...** if one is a computer. This sacrifice is designed to draw the white king away and allow the black king to penetrate into White's position and pick up pawns. One possibility: **37.Kxh3 Kf3 38.Bh2 Ke2 39.Bb8**

Back to a win! 38...Kc2 39.Bb8 Kxb3? Back to a draw. The only winning move was **39. ...a5 40.Bc7 Kxb3 41.Bxb6 Kb4 42.Bd8 c4 43.Bxg5 c3 44.Kxh4 Kxa4 45.Kg3 Kb3 46.Kf2 a4 47.Bc1 a3 48.Bxa3 Kxa3 49.Ke2 Kb2** And White comes up just short. **40.Bxa7 c4 41.Bxb6 Kxa4 42.Be3 Kb3 43.Bxg5 c3 44.Kxh4 Kb2 45.Kg3 c2 46.Kf2 c1Q 47.Bxc1+ ½-½**

Even a win for Black here wouldn't have saved Team South. They finished the day in defeat, with Team North having claimed a fourth consecutive victory, this time 14-10. Thanks to Mike Zeggelaar for directing, and Micah Hughey and Gary Ng for captaining.

Junior Regionals



Sept 16-17—Calgary

The first step toward the 2017 Alberta Junior Championship was taken in Calgary in September. The participants were split into three sections, allowing players of all skill levels to participate. Frank Kluytmans organized and directed; he was assisted by Angelo Tolentino and Yilong Qin.

In the Open section, Andre Tolentino (1777) claimed first with 4/5. He only suffered a third round loss to Aditya

Raninga (1544). By winning, Tolentino earned the right to participate in the six-person round robin Alberta Junior Championship in November. Second place was a four-way tie between Raninga, Vishruth Sharma (1633), Andrew Chen (1810), and Patrick Tolentino (1761). Raninga won the tiebreak and claimed the ACA coaching award. Fourteen kids participated in the Open section.

In the Under-1300 section, Maxim Bryuzgin (971) was perfect with 7/7. Second place went to Parth Sheth

(1037) with 5.5/7. Ten juniors participated in that section. In the beginner section—Under 800—Jinghui Bai (907) scored 6/7, while five juniors split second with 4.5/7. Fourteen juniors participated in that section.

It was Edmonton's turn next. On September 30-October 1, sixteen juniors came to the Edmonton Chess Club to participate in the Edmonton Junior Regional. Dustin Koperski organized and directed.

The Open section was won by Mark Ivanescu (1683). Mark, who claimed Edmonton's spot in the Alberta Junior Championship, went 4.5/5 and only suffered a second-round draw with Ron Offengenden. Second place went to ratings-favorite Matthew Zita (1736) with 3.5/5, while third was split between Julian Lau (1465) and Andi Superceanu (1508) with 3/5. In the Under-1300 section, Paul Le (1116) was perfect with 5/5, while Alex Han (1107) claimed second with 4/5. Here is Mark Ivanescu's eventual tournament-winner—and a very good positional game!

Ivanescu, Mark (1683) - Zita, Matthew (1736) [A99]
2017 Edmonton Junior Regional (3), 30.09.2017

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 d6 5.c4 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.b3 Castling immediately is the most common move in this position. **7...Qe8 8.0-0 a5 9.Re1 Ne4 10.Bb2 Nd7 11.Nd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2** White has completed his development,



but Black still has a ways to go. **e5 13.Rad1 Kh8?** [See diagram] Best here was **13...c6**, preventing White's knight from jumping to d5 or b5. Black has positional problems, starting with the vulnerable c7 square (should the white knight be able to attack it),

but also extending to the force White has on the d and e-files. Not only are the rooks on those files, but the white bishops are aligned to pressure the center. If White can open up the center, Black's pieces will have difficulty finding places to go. **14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nd5 Bd8** A response like **15...Qd7** fails to White pushing the c-pawn and opening up the d-file (Black's c-pawn would be busy keeping the knight off the b6 forking square). The black queen will have limited places to go and no ability to protect the c7 pawn, d7 bishop, and d5 knight. For example: **16.c5 Bd8** (The defense **16...Ra6** is far more complicated, with the idea of recapturing on d6 with the rook, but all lines seem to fall to a skewer with White's bishop going to a3, as in: **17.Qc3 Bf6 18.cxd6 Rxd6 19.Ba3**) **17.Nf4 Bf6 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.Qxd6** with White up a pawn and still positionally better. **16.e4!** A crucial positional move to open the e-file

against Black's queen. **16...c6 17.exf5** A temporary piece sac. The game has suddenly morphed to a tactical one as White calculates how to best take advantage of his lead in development. **17...cxd5 18.f4 Bc7 19.Qxd5 Rxf5 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.Bxe5** [See diagram] Notice Black's iffy back rank. **21...Bxe5 22.Rxe5 Rxe5 23.Qxe5** Black has to retreat his queen while still guarding the back rank. White has emerged from the exchanges up only a pawn, but still with considerable pressure and more development. **23...Qg8 24.Bd5 Qf8 25.Rf1 Qc5+ 26.Kh1 Bh3 27.Rf7** Black has no way to stop a massive loss of material, so instead just sacrifices all of his pieces and resigns just short of mate. **27...Rg8 28.Rxg7 Bg2+ 29.Kxg2 Qf2+ 30.Kxf2 Rf8+ 31.Kg1 Rf1+ 32.Kxf1 1-0**



Calgary Chess Club

#274, 3359 27 Street NE
(403) 264-9698
www.calgarychess.com

Tuesdays (7PM—): New Grand Prix system; see website for details

Thursdays (7PM—): Unrated rapid chess, one tournament/week, four rounds, \$5 entry

Saturdays (10AM-1PM): Some junior events; see website

Edmonton Chess Club

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

www.fb.com/theedmontonchessclub

Mondays (6:30 PM—): Rapid chess, 4 rounds, no entry fee, ECC membership required

Thursdays (6:30 PM—): CFC rated tournament, regular time control, CFC/ECC membership required.

\$10 entry. Upcoming tournaments start on May 1, July 1. Byes available, join any time (by 6:30).

Saturdays (12:45PM—5PM): Rapid tournaments, sometimes junior events. Call for schedule.

Fort McMurray Open & Alberta Women's Championship

July 1-2, 2017—Fort McMurray

Ico van den Born (1835) was the surprise winner at the Fort McMurray Open. He had a decisive win over ratings favorite Rob Gardner (2280) in the fourth round and finished the tournament with 4.5/5. Gardner came in second with 4/5, while Cristian Ivanescu (1897) finished third with 3.5/5. Eighteen players participated in the Open section. There was also a Reserves section for newer players where Matthew Ivanescu (938) won clear first.

The Alberta Women's Championship was held alongside the Open. Defending champion WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement was unable to attend, so the championship was wide open. Lucy Chao (1462) emerged as the winner after a perfect 5/5 performance, including a second-round win over ratings favorite Jina Burn (1688). Jina finished second with 3.5/5, while third was split between Roni Gutin (1454) and Ancy Chacko (1320) with 3/5. Nine women participated in the tournament—the highest number since 2013.

By virtue of her perfect performance, Lucy earned the right to represent Alberta at the 2018 Canadian Women's Championship—a ten person round robin in Montreal in



December. She played alongside WIM Matras-Clement, who earned her spot by virtue of being the runner up at the Canadian Women's in 2016.

Many thanks to Jina Burn for organizing and directing, and Xiaoshi Huang also for directing.

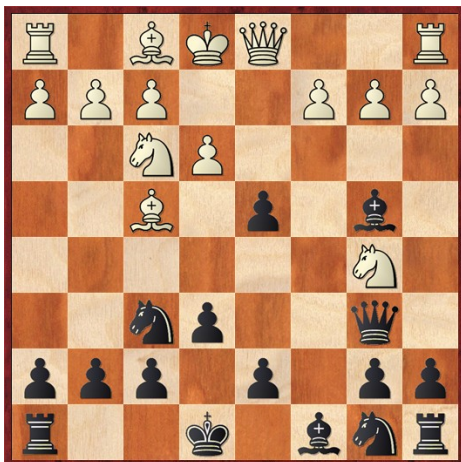
Below, please see Rob Gardner's analysis of his game against junior Mark Ivanescu, where Rob is much worse out of the opening, but pulls everything together for a defensive stand and an eventual win.

Ivanescu, Mark (1696) - Gardner, Robert (2271) [A46]
Ft. McMurray Open (2),
01.07.2017/[Rob Gardner]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Qb6 5.Na3 It is thematic for White to continue developing rather than protect b2. **5...cxd4** After 5...Qxb2 one possible continuation is 6.Nb5 Nd5 7.Rb1 Qxa2 8.Ra1 Qb2 9.Rb1 Qa2 when White can choose to force a repetition. **6.Nb5 Bb4+** [See diagram following page] The passive 6...Na6 is necessary. **7.c3 dxc3 8.bxc3** I had overlooked this. Now Black is losing material. I had lazily only looked at 8.Nc7+ Qxc7 9.Bxc7 when Black can regain his material with a discovered

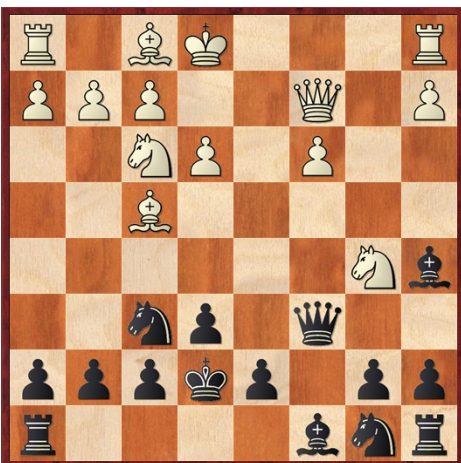


check. **8...Ba5** I was glad that I retained enough composure to at least find this move. By retreating the bishop out of danger while keeping pressure on c3, Black at least retains some potential for counterplay (though I presume that White wins with best play).



9.Nc7+ Ke7 10.Qc2

[10.Rc1 is the computer's choice. Not only does this protect c3, it activates the rook while removing it from potential danger. The rook on a8 is still trapped.] **10...Qc6** Mark told me that he missed this move. Compared to 10.Rc1, Black



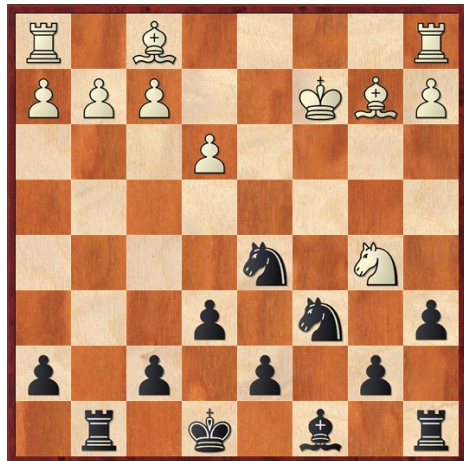
now has more counterplay since White's rook is still vulnerable on a1. Black's pieces have gained in coordination. **11.Nb5** [See diagram] White defends both his knight and c-pawn, but retreat seems too passive. **11.Bb5** is another computer suggestion. White provokes a simplification

while clearing the back rank so that White can recapture on a1. **11...Qxc3+ 12.Qxc3 Bxc3+ 13.Ke2 Bxa1 14.Rxa1** Even if a human saw this line, it might not seem very clear.; **11.Nxa8** looks principled, and I presume it is at least better for White. Once again I could hope for practical

chances against a lower-rated opponent. **11...Nd5** I miscalculated again. I probably figured that by hitting c7, f4, and c3, I should be doing okay. **11...a6** is the computer's suggestion for Black to get out of danger. Black takes his chance to strike at the dangerous white knight. **12.Bd6+ Ke8 13.Ne5** Now Black gets to defend with some simplifying trades. **13.Ba3** is yet another good tactical move suggested by the computer. With the white bishop now on the

a3-f8 diagonal. The threat of a knight check on d6 is more dangerous than it was before. If Black tries to defend with **13...Bc7** White's initiative seems too big. For example, play might continue **14.e4 Ne7 15.Nfd4 Qb6 16.Rb1** White gets yet another piece in the attack. Considering how aggressive White's pieces look, it is easy to believe the computer's assessment that White is winning. **13...Bxc3+ 14.Kd1 Bxe5 15.Bxe5 Qxc2+ 16.Kxc2 Nc6 17.Bxg7 Rg8 18.Bb2 a6**

[See diagram] White still has some compensation for the pawn, but the remainder of the game sees White drift into a bad ending. **19.Nd4 Nxd4+ 20.Bxd4 d6 21.Rb1 b5** [21...e5 is another tactical improvement suggested by the computer. The possibility of ... Bf5+ leads



to problems for White. However **21...b5** is not a bad move.] **22.e4 Ne7 23.e5 Nc6 24.Kd3 Nxe5+ 25.Bxe5 dxe5 26.Be2 Bb7 27.Bf3 Bxf3 28.gxf3 Ke7 29.Rhg1 Rxg1 30.Rxg1 Rd8+ 31.Ke3 Rd4 32.Rg5 Ra4 0-1**

Fort McMurray Chess Club

Wood Buffalo Chess Park
Thursdays 6:30 PM - 9 PM
Contact Jina Burn

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fmchess@hotmail.com



10th Calgary International Chess Classic

*Story by Organizer and Director
Vlad Rekhson*

This year was the 10th edition of the Calgary International Chess Festival. The event took place between July 31st-August 11th and included a nine round tournament with six Grandmasters in attendance, a blindfold simul with “Blindfold King” GM Timur Gareyev, a lecture by Grandmaster Bator Sambuev, a blitz tournament and a chess camp.

The festivities kicked off on Monday, July 31, as GM Timur Gareyev, the man known as the Blindfold King, showed off his Guinness record-breaking skills (he broke the record with 48 blindfold games played simultaneously) as he took on ten local players. Because apparently playing blindfolded against ten people is not enough of a challenge, Timur requested all of his games to be played with the black pieces! In the end he beat eight players and only allowed draws against the junior up-and-comer Ian Zhao and FM Elect Gary Ng.

On Tuesday, August 1st we hit a bit of a roadblock as several International participants went to see the Drumheller dinosaur museum and on the way back the driver took a wrong turn. As a result, GM Elshan Moradiabadi could not make it on time to his scheduled lecture. Luckily, when you have six GMs in attendance if two are lost you still have four. Canadian champion GM Bator Sambuev graciously agreed to take over the lecturer’s podium and showcase some psychological aspects of chess preparation.

On the morning of the first round of the main event, many of the International participants made a trip to Banff for some sightseeing and an excellent lunch at Ian Findlay’s house! Such trips have become a Calgary International tradition which is a great way of showcasing some of Alberta’s most scenic views before the chess battles begin.

The Calgary International began on the evening of Wednesday, August 2nd. The tournament was the largest since it began, offering international norms as 34 players took part. In addition to the aforementioned Grandmasters, the event included defending champion Razvan Preotu, two-time champion Victor Mikhalevski, and Cuban American



Photos by Stefan Sklenka

GM Julio Becerra.

Several players made it to Calgary from eastern Canada and the United States in pursuit of Grandmaster and International Master norms. One of those hopefuls was ten year old FM Christopher Yoo from California. Yoo is homeschooled and spends at least 3-4 hours on chess every day. Christopher had a strong start which included an upset win over Canadian GM Razvan Preotu (his first GM scalp) and a draw against GM Becerra. Christopher’s results were the talk of the tournament until he was stopped by GM Sambuev and later by locals FM Diwen Shi and Itohan Gold.

Calgarian Brian Timmerman was another success story. With a FIDE rating of 1615 Brian wasn’t supposed to score too many points, but he was definitely the upset king of the event. For the past two years the Calgary International has featured a unique class prize award system. Instead of the traditional awarding, prizes are awarded for upsets in each round. This year \$20 was awarded for the biggest upset of the round in the Under 2000, Under 2300 and Over 2300 sections. The prizes were quite small, but I think that the players liked the small motivation to see if they can get that “scalp.” Also it has been quite interesting to see a GM win a biggest upset prize! Going back to Brian, well he managed to collect a total of four such awards as he secured some impressive upset results on a way to increasing his CFC rating from 1829 to 2078!

The tournament at the top was quite competitive. Going into the 7th round things looked good for the defending champion, GM Preotu, who had recovered nicely after his loss to Christopher Yoo and was leading the event with 5/6. GMs Gareyev, Mikhalevski and Sambuev were in hot pursuit as they were only half a point behind. Razvan seemed to be destined to extend his lead as he was enjoying a pawn up endgame with three pawns against two for Victor. Unbelievably Victor managed to turn the game on its head as he methodically won every single pawn of his opponent without giving up a single one of his own, on his way to victory and the tournament lead. Bator joined him in the lead as he dispatched a Victoria junior and former world under ten champion-FM Jason Cao. In the meantime, GM Gareyev was trying his best to outplay GM Moradiabadi in a rook and bishop vs. rook endgame which Elshan managed to defend to secure a draw after 148 moves! In this tournament we used DGT e-boards which allowed us to broadcast the top three boards of every round. For the most part they worked fine, with the exception of the Moradiabadi-Gareyev game, in which something went wrong with the wires at the very beginning of the game. Volunteer Tony Ficzer decided to broadcast the game manually henceforth, little did he know that it was going to be a 148 move affair. Our volunteers sure work hard!

In round 8, GM Mikhalevski effectively ended the norm chances of Quebec junior Olivier Chiku-Ratte, while GM Sambuev played an absolutely fantastic game against the American Women's Champion, WGM Sabina-Francesca Foisor. Bator is certainly someone who does not leave spectators bored. He sacrificed a queen for a rook in a most spectacularly speculative fashion. The engines were laughing at it, while the attending GMs were unsure how it can be refuted. Sabina did a good job of defending for a

while, but eventually made a mistake and lost. This certainly has been one of the most amazing games that I have ever seen in all the twenty or so Edmonton and Calgary Internationals that I have been involved in.

Going into the last round the role of the successful underdog shifted from the kids to the veterans, as FM Dale Haessel suddenly ascended to board 1 with a few spectacular wins. Dale did not have a good start which killed his norm chances, but a succession of victories brought him the coveted game against GM Mikhalevski. Despite the vast rating difference, FM Haessel had something to hope for as he already had a past scalp and a draw against Victor. This time, however, it wasn't meant to be as the GM confidently won the game on his way to his third Calgary International title. GM Sambuev again went all out against GM Becerra and despite being down a piece, he managed to create enough complications to secure a draw which was enough for second place. Third was shared by GMs Razvan Preotu and Timur Gareyev.

Right after the main event the players had a chance to relax and enjoy some fun Blitz competition. A total of 36 players attended this open-to-all event which was run in a semi-serious and unrated manner. One of the GMs called it "an opportunity to settle all scores." The event had some curiosities such as GM Gareyev hurrying back to his game after the break, arriving with 9 seconds left on the clock before defeating the main event champion GM Victor Mikhalevski. First place went to GM Sambuev who only gave away one draw and did not have any queens missing from the tables.

The wonderful festival was a collaboration between many different people whom I would like to thank. First, I would like to thank the sponsors: Alberta Chess Association, Calgary Chess Club, 1498413 Alberta Incorporated Dale Haessel, President "The first and last name in Software Development," Wade Caughlin Financial, and Frank Kluytmans, who also doubled as the event's treasurer. I would also like to thank Tony Ficzer for running the event's website, helping with the broadcast, and accommodating players, Steve Sklenka who provided accommodations to several players and took some nice pictures and videos, Bhavik Dave for pictures and videos, the Sharma family, Georgi Kostadinov and Brian Timmerman for accommodating players. Additionally, I would like to thank the Renert School for hosting the 47 juniors who attended the International chess camp and the instructors that helped me run it, GM Victor Mikhalevski, WIM Ag-



nieszka Matras-Clement, FM Diwen Shi, Paul Gagne, Ian Zhao, and Chenxi Wu. I would also like to thank all those who made other contributions to Calgary's International Festival. We are always looking for contributors and volunteers to help the Calgary International Chess Festival to succeed and go on for many years to come.

—Vlad Rekhson



Pictured: Calgary International Winner GM Victor Mikhalevski. Photo by Bhavik Dave.

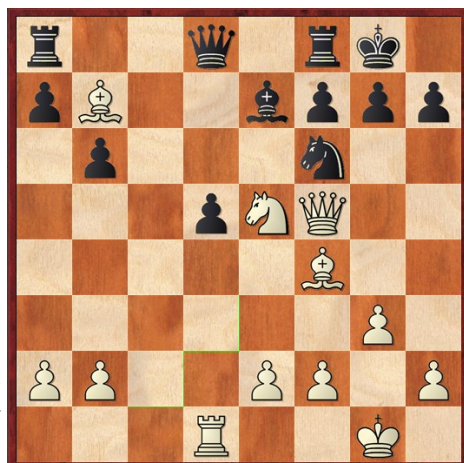
Several of the players were generous enough to send in an analysis of their game. The following is courtesy of GM Mikhalevski.

Mikhalevski, Victor (2533) - Gareyev, Timur (2620)
[E15] 10th Calgary International Calgary (4), 04.08.2017
[Mikhalevski, Victor]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qa4 Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 Na6 10.Bf4 Be7 11.Rfd1 Nc5 12.Qc2 Nce4?! A dubious move. 12...Qc8 is the main line. 13.Ne5! Nxc3 14.Bxb7! Nxd1 15.Rxd1 d5 15...Rc8 16.Bxc8 Qxc8 17.Qa4 Rd8 18.Qxa7 Bc5 19.Nd3 Qc6 20.Qc7 Qxc7 21.Bxc7 Ra8 22.b4 Be7 23.Bxb6 Rxa2 24.b5 Rxe2 25.Bc7 d6 26.b6 Nd7 27.b7 Rc2 28.c5 dxc5 29.Nb4 cxb4 30.Rxd7 1-0 (30) Khenkin, I (2624)-Van den Doel, E (2573) Germany 2012; 15...Rb8 16.Nc6 dxc6 17.Rxd8

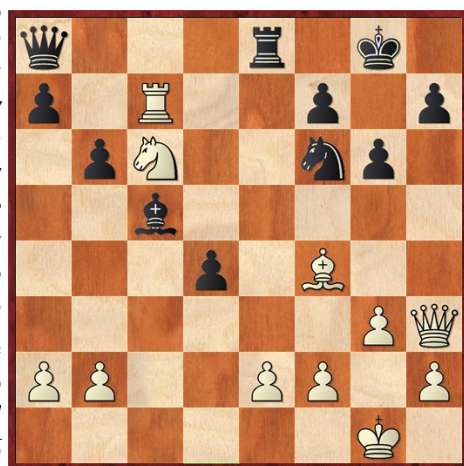
Rbxd8 18.Bxc6± 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Qf5?! [See diagram] My idea was to prepare 18.Nc6 by means of taking under control the d7-square. The immediate 17.Nc6! was more simple and better.

17...Qd7 18.Nxe7+!
 (18.Bxa8 Rxa8
 19.e4 Bc5!
 (19...Nxe4
 20.Rxd5+-)
 20.exd5 Nxd5
 21.Ne5 Qe6 22.Qe4
 Rd8=) 18...Qxe7
 19.Bxa8 Rxa8
 20.Bg5 Rd8
 21.Rd4! and Black
 can save the d5-
 pawn. 21...h6
 22.Bxf6 Qxf6



23.Qd2 Qg5 24.e3± White's idea is to play 25.h4 with the subsequent 26.e4.; 17.e4 Qb8 (17...Rb8 18.Nc6 Qd7 19.Bxb8 Qxb7 20.Bxa7 Bc5 21.exd5 ...Nxd5? 22.Bxb6!+-) 18.Qc6 dxe4 19.Ng6 hxg6 20.Bxb8 Raxb8+= 17...g6 18.Qh3 Qb8! 19.Bxa8 Qxa8 20.Rc1! White is taking the only open file under control. 20...Re8! 21.Rc7! d4! Black is vacating the d5-square for his knight. 21...Bd6? 22.Nd7 Nxd7 23.Bxd6 Nf8 (23...Nf6 24.Be7+-) 24.Bxf8± 22.Nc6?! After this inaccuracy the position is equal. 22.Qg2! led to a slightly better for White endgame. 22...Nd5 23.Rd7 Nxf4 24.gxf4 Qxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Bf6 26.Nxf7 Rxe2 27.Nh6+ Kh8 28.Ng4 Bh4 29.Kh3 Be7 30.Kg3 Kg8 31.Kf3 d3 32.Ne5 Bf6 33.Nxd3 Rc2 34.Rxa7 Bxb2+= 22...Bc5! [See diagram] The only move again.

22...Bf8? runs into 23.Be5! (23.Nxd4? Qd5 24.e3 g5 25.Rc6 Ne4 26.Bc7 Qxa2=; 23.Qg2? d3 24.Ne7+ Bxe7 25.Qxa8 Rxa8 26.Rxe7 Nd5 27.Re5 Nxf4 28.gxf4 dxe2 29.Rxe2) 23...Nd5? Now this move loses. Compare to the game. (23...Re6! is better. 24.Bxf6 d3! 25.exd3 Bd6!



26.Ne7+ Bxe7 27.Bc3± with an extra pawn for White.) 24.Rxf7! Kxf7 25.Qxh7+ Ke6 26.Qg8+! The key-difference between 22... Bc5 and 22...Bf8. 26...Kd7 (26...Kf5 27.Qf7+ Kg5 28.Bf4+ Kh5 29.Qxd5+ Kg4 30.Qg5+ Kh3 31.Qh4#) 27.Qxd5+ Kc8 28.Ne7+-; After 22...Nd5? 23.Nxe7+ Nxe7 24.Qd7+- Black is paralyzed. 23.Be5 Now White should force a draw. 23.b4 d3! (23...Nd5? 24.Rxf7! Kxf7 25.Qd7+ Ne7 26.Ne5+ Kg7 27.bxc5 bxc5 28.Qe6 Ng8 29.Qf7+ Kh8 30.h4 Qc8 31.Nd7

Qd8 32.h5 gxh5 33.Qf5+-) 24.bxc5 (24.exd3? Nd5!
 25.Rxf7 Re1+! 26.Kg2 Nxf4+ 27.Rxf4 Qxc6+--+) 24...dxe2
 25.Ne7+ Kh8 26.Bd2 Qe4 27.Qh4 e1Q+ 28.Bxe1 Qxe1+
 29.Kg2 Qe5 30.cxb6 axb6 31.Rc8= **23...Nd5 24.Rxf7!
 Kxf7 25.Qxh7+ Ke6 26.Qh3+ Kf7 27.Qh7+ A short, but
 interesting game. ½-½ - GM Victor Mikhalevski**



Above: Second place winner GM Sambuev next to tournament organizer and director Vlad Rekhson. Photo by Bhavik Dave

The following analysis is courtesy of Vlad Rekhson. In this game, Sambuev speculatively sacs his queen, sending Foisor into long-term defense.

Foisor, Sabina-Francesca (2358) - Sambuev, Bator (2522) [A57] 2017CICC Calgary Alberta (8.2), 06.08.2017 [Vlad Rekhson]



1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6
 3.d4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0
 5.Be2 c5 6.d5 b5
 7.cxb5 a6 8.Nc3
 axb5 9.Bxb5 Ne4
 10.Nxe4 Qa5+
 11.Nc3 Bxc3+
 12.bxc3 Qxb5
 13.Nd2 Qd3 14.c4
 d6 15.Rb1 Bf5!?
 [See diagram left]
 The start of a crazy
 game. 16.g4 Na6?!
 Objectively it's los-
 ing but good luck

figuring it all out during the game. Also, retreating the bishop now wouldn't make much logical sense. 17.Rb3 Nb4 18.Rxd3 Bxd3 Black only has one rook for a queen, but he does have a lot of pressure. Still, it takes quite a bit of guts to sacrifice a queen for positional advantages. 19.f4! [19.Nb3? Rxa2 20.Qf3 Rb8 21.h4 Nc2+ 22.Kd1 Rxb3

23.Qf4 Nb4 24.Re1
 Rb1 25.e4 Rc2
 26.e5 Na2 27.Re2
 Nc3+ 28.Ke1 Nxe2
 -+]

19...Rxa2
 20.Kf2 Rfa8
 21.Kg3 Rc2 22.h4

f6!? [See diagram]
 Keeps the pressure.
 Going to try and
 win some material
 back wouldn't have
 worked. For exam-
 ple: 22...Ra1 23.h5

Rxc1 24.Qxc1 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 White eliminated the pres-
 sure and has a won endgame. **23.g5 h5 24.gxh6 Kh7 25.h5
 Rg8 26.hxg6+?** [See diagram below] [26.Kf3! Na2 27.Nb3
 Be4+ 28.Kxe4 Nc3+ 29.Kd3 Nxd1 30.Kxc2 Nf2 31.Rf1

Looks like White
 eliminated the pres-
 sure. 26...Rxc6+

27.Kf3 Na2 28.Nb3
 Bf5 29.Rg1 Nc3

30.Qxc2 Bxc2
 31.Rxg6 Kxg6
 32.Na5 Be4+

33.Kf2 Kxh6
 34.Nc6 e5 35.Nd8
 Bg6 36.fxe5 Ne4+

37.Ke1 fxe5
 38.Bd2 Kg7 39.Ba5
 Bh5 40.Bc7 Kf8

41.Ne6+ Ke7
 42.Bd8+ Kd7 43.Bh4 Nc3 44.Kd2 Na4 45.Bd8 Nb2

46.Kc3 Nd1+ 47.Kd2 Bg4 48.Ba5 Nf2 49.Ng5 Ke7
 50.Ke1 Nh1!? Continuing creative play. 51.Kf1 Ng3+
 52.Kf2 Nh5 53.Bc7 Kd7 54.Bxd6? [See diagram below]

After having to defend for a long time, White thought that
 she can just force a
 drawn continuation
 but miscalculated.

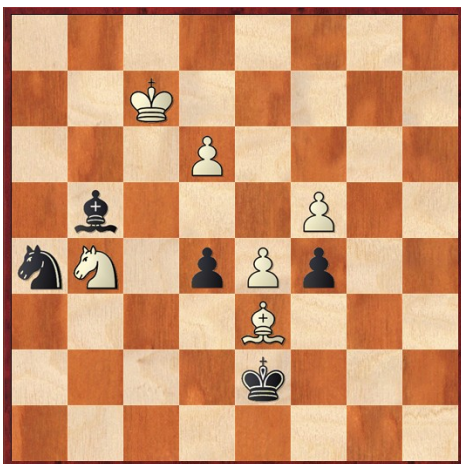
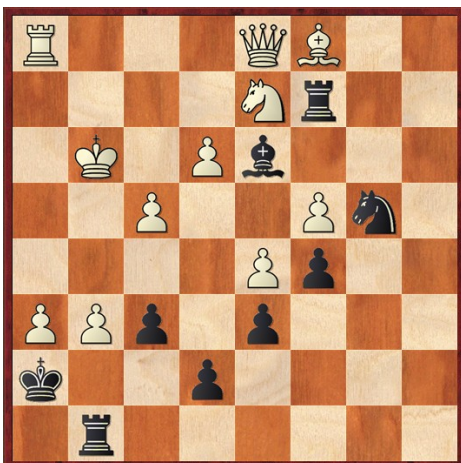
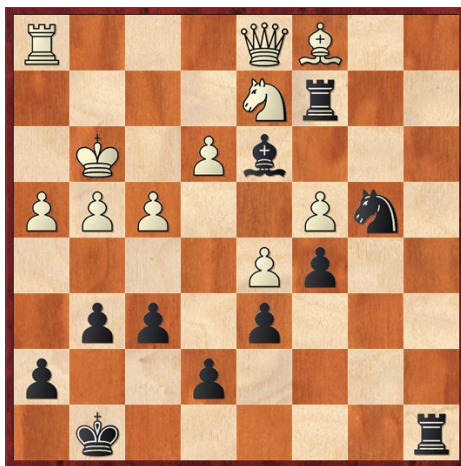
Instead she should
 have played: 54.Ba5
 Ng7 55.Ke1 Nf5

56.Kd2 Black still
 has some winning
 chances but it
 should be a draw.

54...Kxd6 55.Nf7+
 Ke7 56.Nxe5 Bf5
 57.Kf3 Nf6 58.Kf4
 Bc2 59.Nc6+ Kd6

60.Nd8 Ne4
 61.Nf7+ Ke7 62.Ne5 Nd2 63.Nc6+ Kd6 64.Ne5 Kc7

65.Kg5 Bb3 66.Kf5 Nxc4 67.Ng4 Bd1 68.Nf6 Nxe3+
 69.Ke5 Ng4+ 70.Nxg4 Bxg4 0-1 —Vlad Rekhson





Above: GMs Timur Gareyev (left) and Razvan Preotu, who shared third place. Photo by Bhavik Dave.

GM Razvan Preotu may have come back to tie for third, but he suffered an upset at the hands of 10-year-old FM Christopher Yoo, who has annotated the game below.

Yoo, Christopher (2242) - Preotu, Razvan (2501) [B90]
2017CICC Calgary Alberta (2.6), 03.08.2017 [Christopher Yoo]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3 b5 This is a very interesting line. It's important to know this line well as black. Pushing pawns early in the opening is generally bad. Black's idea is to eventually play d5. The knight on c3 makes this tough. Black can also play the typical setup with Bb7–Nbd7 with normal play. **8.Qd2 b4** [8...Nbd7 This move is the main line.] **9.Na4!?** This line goes for tactical play. Playing complicated lines requires good knowledge. Things can easily go wrong. The position can easily collapse. When the position is more solid knowing the ideas is more important. But it is still important to know the ideas when it is complicated. **9.Nce2** This is another line. **9...e5 10.Nb3 Nc6** **9...Nbd7** [9...d5 I would say that this position leads to a bad French. This is true because of the following move. **10.e5! Nfd7 11.f4 Nc5 12.Nxc5 Bxc5 13.a3 bxa3 14.b4 Be7 15.Rxa3±** White is better because of the bishop on c8.] **10.0–0–0 Qa5** [10...Qc7! This is another move I prepared for.] **11.b3** This position opts for some tactical play as Black will sacrifice a pawn to get d5 in with a lot of support. **11...Bb7 12.a3 Qc7** [12...d5?

13.e5! Nxe5 (13...Ng8 14.f4±) 14.Nxe6! fxe6 15.Bb6+– The queen is trapped.] **13.axb4 d5** [See diagram] This is when I played my novelty. A stunning quiet move in a crazy position. White wants to play Bf4, but this is met with e5. Instead I



found another way to bring my bishop to the same diagonal. **14.Bf2!** This was prepared at home. **14.b5?! e5 15.bxa6 Bxa6 16.Nb5 Bxb5 17.Bxb5 d4 18.Bxd4 exd4 19.Qxd4 Ra5 20.Qd3 Ba3+ 21.Kb1 Ke7 22.Bxd7 Nxd7 23.Nc3 Ne5 24.Nd5+ Rxd5 25.Qxd5 Rc8 26.c4μ ½–½ (66) Caruana,F (2791)-Topalov,V (2772) Stavanger 2014 CBM 161 [Ftacnik,L] **14...dxe4** [14...Bd6?! 15.Bg3 Bxg3 16.hxg3 Qxg3 17.exd5 Bxd5 18.c4 Bb7 19.Bd3±] **15.Bg3 Qc8** [15...e5! This would have been a better try. With the weak light squares, this is scary to play over the board. **16.Bc4 g6** stopping Nf5 **17.Rhf1** White has initiative according to my analysis.] **16.Bc4 Bd5?!** [16...Be7 This would have been a better try. **17.Rhe1 0–0 18.Nxe6! fxe6 19.Bxe6+ Kh8 20.Bxd7 Nxd7 21.Qxd7 Bxb4 22.Be5! Qxd7 23.Rxd7 Rfe8 24.Bxg7+ Kg8 25.Bc3 Bxc3 26.Nxc3 exf3 27.Rg1 f2 28.Rf1 Re1+ 29.Rd1 Rxd1+ 30.Nxd1 Bxg2 31.Rxf2 Bc6** White is up a pawn. With the connected passed pawns this should be enough to win. This is not an easy task because of the limited amount of pawns on the board.] **17.Bxd5 Nxd5 18.Nf5! N7f6** [18...Nxb4 19.Nxg7+ Bxg7 20.Qxb4±] **19.Nd6+ Bxd6 20.Bxd6** Now kingside castling is prevented, but Black can queenside castle. The kingside is preferable. There are not many pawns defending the black king on the queenside, so the position is concerning. It will also be harder to attack if you castle queenside. **20...Qc6** [20...a5! I saw this resource during the game and planned to respond **21.bxa5 Qd8 22.Bc5 Qxa5 23.Qd4**] **21.Bc5 exf3?** [See diagram] **21...a5** Black has to act quickly in this position, so he should have started to attack me. **22.b5! Qxb5 -c4 23.Qd4 exf3 24.gxf3 Qb8 25.Kb2± **22.c4**** This move prevents queenside castling. **22...Ne7 23.gxf3** The f3 pawn restricts the f6 knight, so it is**

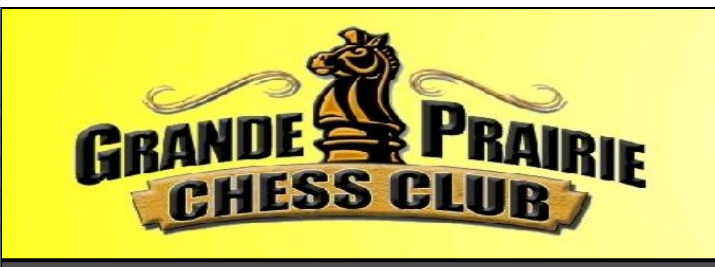


hard to seek counterplay for Black. **23...Nf5** [23...Qxf3? 24.Bxe7 Kxe7 25.Qd6+ Ke8 26.Rhf1! Qb7 27.Nc5 Qa7 28.Rxf6! A lot of things win, but this is the nicest. This is also the most straightforward win. 28...gxf6 29.Qc6+ Kf8 (29...Ke7 30.Rd7+-) 30.Nd7+ Ke7 31.Qd6+ Kd8 32.Nb6+ Ke8 33.Nd5 exd5 34.Re1+-; 23...Ng6 24.Nb6 Rb8 25.Qe3 Qc7 26.Na4 Ra8 27.Bb6 Qe7 28.h4 h5 29.Bc5 Qc7 30.Bd6 Qa7 31.Nc5 Rd8 32.Qd4 Qa8 33.Rd3 Nd5 34.Qxd5! Qxd5 35.Rxd5! exd5 36.Re1+ Ne7 37.Bxe7+-] **24.Nb6 Rb8 25.Rhe1!** -Re5-Rxf5 **25...a5** [25...Ne7 26.Nd5! Nexd5 27.cxd5 Nxd5 28.Qxd5+-] **26.Re5 Nh4** [26...Ne7 27.bxa5 Ng6 28.Qd4 Nxe5 29.Qxe5 Rb7 30.Rd6 Qc7 31.Rxe6+ fxe6 32.Qxe6+- Everything works out well in this position. The biggest problem is he can't castle.] **27.b5 Qc7** [27...Qxf3 28.Qd6 Qc3+ 29.Kb1 Qxb3+ 30.Ka1 Qc3+ 31.Ka2 Qc2+ 32.Ka3 Qc3+ 33.Ka4 Qc2+ 34.Kxa5 Qa2+ 35.Na4 Ra8+ 36.Kb6 Nd5+ 37.Rdxd5+- What a crazy variation!] **28.Qf4 Rb7** [28...Ng6 29.Rxe6+

fxe6 30.Qxc7+]- **29.Bd6?!** My only inaccuracy during the game. 29.Qe3! Ng6 30.Rxe6+ fxe6 31.Qxe6+ Ne7 32.Bxe7 Qxe7 33.Rd8+ Kxd8 34.Qc8# What a nice mate! **29...Qxb6 30.Qxh4 Qd8 31.c5 Rxb5 32.Qc4** [See diagram] He resigned in this position. We both saw this variation. 32...Rb4 33.Rxe6+ Kd7(33...fxe6 34.Qxe6+ Qe7 35.Qxe7#) 34.c6+ Kc8 35.Qa6+ Rb7 36.Qxb7# A nice game! **1-0**



Medicine Hat Chess Club
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 —Seasonal—
 Contact: Bill Taylor 403.526.5484
 email: taylorwmw@shaw.ca
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 Contact Wade Caughlin
wade.caughlin@sunlife.com
www.gpchessclub.com

Over/Under 1800

August 26-27—Calgary

The Over/Under 1800 returned to Calgary for 2017. Twenty-five players participated. In the Over 1800 section, FM Dale Haessel (2316) was nearly perfect, going 4.5/5 and only suffering a round four draw with Gary Ng. Ng (2371) finished second with 4/5, while Itohan Gold (2089) was third with 3.5/5.

In the Under-1800 section, Mark Linnick (1675) won with 4.5/5, despite this being only the second CFC tournament that he's ever played. Paul Wang (1638) finished second with 4/5, while third was shared between Aditya Ranninga (Unr) and Maxim Vasic (1320) with 3.5/5. Thanks to Frank Kluytmans for organizing and directing, and the Calgary Chess Club for hosting.

Photo by Bhavik Dave



23rd Medicine Hat Open



Sept. 23-24, 2017

By: Dr. Bill Taylor, Tournament Organizer/Director

The 23rd Annual Medicine Hat “OPEN” (Fall) Chess Tournament took place on another warm, sunny, fall weekend. For most of the 23 year history of this event, we have had warm, sunny days. We are truly fortunate that has been our reality.

This year, the Medicine Hat Chess Club (MHCC) welcomed 22 players, which is the second highest attendance we’ve had over the years. When we had two Grandmasters with us (2009), we also had 22 players. This year, we welcomed six first time participants, including a 10 year-old junior, Vishruth Sharma. I was pleased to welcome Ian Findlay back to our tournament. Ian returned to defend his championship from last year (and was successful!) Sean Perron, who won the tournament in 2011, returned to try his luck. We also welcomed another of our previous champions, Micah Hughey, who was last with us in 2004. The greatest number of players came from Medicine Hat (with six), but Lethbridge and area was close behind with five players. We welcomed a couple of players from Saskatchewan. As usual, our ever faithful Edmonton participants, John Quiring and Steve Panteluk were in attendance, and this year Ford Wong made the long trip to be with us again. Ford and I have known each other for 43 years! He and I were the only “lifers” (lifetime members of the CFC) participating. I joined in 1974, and I presume Ford joined shortly thereafter.

Ian Findlay, our returning FIDE Master from Banff, was successful in defending his championship with a score of 4.5/5. There was a four-way tie with 3.5/5 between: Sean Perron, Micah Hughey, Bhavik Dave, and Mark Linnick.

This required two tie-break methods to sort out. The first, the Cumulative Score method narrowed the field down to two (Bhavik and Mark). The second tie-break method favored by the ACA (the Bucholz method) was required. With the kind help of our Executive Director, Leah, this resulted in the determination (by computer) that Mark was the winner. The purpose of this whole exercise was to come up with a name for the nameplate on the coveted Taylor Cup, and provide the appropriate person (in this case Mark), with a keeper plaque for finishing second. In the lower section, there was a two-way tie for second between Vishruth Sharma and Tirth Patel, both juniors, each with 3/5. There was a three-way tie for fourth place in the lower (under 1700) section between Chris Jonker, Jerry Fitzgerald, and Randy Slaby, each with 2.5/5. Fees minus the requisite deduction for ACA dues (22 x \$5.00) were returned as cash prizes. In addition to cash, MHCC merchandise prizes were given to three of the four top finishers in the over 1700 section.

True to tradition, all tournament participants were treated to the usual Medicine Hat and “Taylor-made” hospitality. My wife, Margaret, continues to make this a reality for which all participants (especially myself) are grateful!! She coordinated the Saturday night drinks and dessert (which this year offered a half size (but still largish) slab of carrot cake from the Cheesecake Café; whipped cream filled pastries, and a few cookies). Complimentary coffee, hot chocolate, a variety of soft drinks, bottled water, assorted muffins, and a plenitude of a variety of Werther’s® candies (in the Taylor Cup) were also offered up. All of this came courtesy of the generous support of 46 sponsors. In addition to the Saturday night “**Drinks and Dessert**” social (for the sixteenth consecutive year!), we once again

offered “**Lunch for a Buck**” on Sunday, for the **20th** straight year. My wife (Margaret) provided Minestrone Knorr® soup, croissant sandwiches (3 different types of meat), a variety of vegetables with dip, and leftover carrot cake, cookies, and whipped cream filled pastries. Thanks to our sponsors, **\$110.00** was injected into the tournament prize fund, essentially replacing the mandatory deductible ACA entry fees. This is the **19th** straight year that our prize fund has equaled or exceeded the value of our entry fees.

With the anticipated ongoing support of our many sponsors, and the new sponsors that I recruit, I will continue to offer all of these “perks” and enhancements next year.

As has been my practice the last several years, jokes were offered up to the assembled multitude by a variety of people. They were mostly well received, and, as I truly believe that “laughter is the best medicine”, this is a tradition that I plan to continue. Thank you to all who dignified our attempts to provide humor and levity.

I continue to encourage and challenge other tournament committees/TDs elsewhere, to offer similar enhancements at their Chess tournaments. Ian Findlay is organizing and coordinating the Banff OPEN in November, and he plans to offer some of these enhancements. I know that such enhancements would not be possible, without the support of sponsors. As stated many times before, (and I will continue to repeat myself like the proverbial broken record!), **SPONSORSHIP MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE!!** That having been said, the number of sponsors that I obtain is not at all essential to achieve financial support to offer the enhancement that I provide. Please feel free to contact me if you want some ideas on how to go about it. Until next year ...

Yours sincerely,

(Dr.) Bill Taylor, Tournament Organizer

Dave, Bhavik (1778) - Hughey, Micah (2061) [D32]
23rd Medicine Hat Open (3), 23.09.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 cxd4 The von Hennig-Schara gambit. Less common than 4...exd5 and certainly less drawish. **5.Qa4+** The most testing line against the gambit. **5...Bd7 6.Qxd4 exd5 7.Qxd5 Nc6 8.Bg5** More common is 8. Nf3. **8...Nf6 9.Bxf6** Black was threatening 9...Nxd5, which, after a short eating contest, would win him a piece. **9...Qxf6 10.0-0-0 0-0-0** Castling queenside was among the computer's top moves for both sides, despite the open c-file. If white had left his king in the open while simply developing, as in 10. Nf3, then 10...Bb4 starts presenting problems. Likewise, a move like 10...Be6 is fine for black, but he's still down his gambited pawn and likely wants to get on with his development. Hence the fairly risky castling. **11.Nf3** [See diagram] Problematic, particularly after 11.... Bb4, which would

complete Black's development while threatening to open up the white King. The text move, 11...Bf5 is also good. **11...Bf5 12.Qc4 Bb4 13.Nd5 Qh6+ 14.e3** The only good response. The king can't move, and blocking with the queen loses immediately to 14.

...Rxd5. If 14. Nf4, b5 deflects the queen, dropping at least a piece. If 14. Ne3, Black has an unstoppable attack after trading rooks and taking over the d-file. 14. Nd2 is worth looking at, but it becomes a game of pins and White encounters serious problems after 14. ...Be6 15.e4 f5, with the black king moving to b8 and the rook sliding over to c8, lining up against the pinned queen. **14...Be6 15.a3 Bd6 16.Nd4?** [See diagram] A tactical mistake, leading to a complicated position. **16...Bxd5 17.Qxd5 Be5! 18.Nxc6** If 18.Qxf7!? Bxd4



Speaking of Bhavik Dave, he's done an amazing job with photos at ACA events over the last year. You can see his work throughout the ACR, and also on the ACA Facebook page. Below is his photo of Medicine Hat organizer Bill Taylor receiving pairing assistance from former ACA president Ford Wong.



Black has a piece for two pawns in a favorable, but not won, position. **18...Rxd5 19.Ne7+ Kb8 20.Nxd5** Black has a queen for rook, knight, and pawn, but the computer gives Black a winning score. **20...Rd8 21.Kb1 Qe6?** Still winning, but after **21...Qg6**, White's position crumbles quickly. **Qe6** is also a good option. **22.e4 Bxh2 23. ...Qg4, f5, or Qg6** present greater tactical problems for White. **23.f3** Shoring up the e4 pawn. **23...Bf4 24.Rxh7? Bh6** [See diagram]



Black promptly puts a hat on the rook, locking it out of the game. **25.Bd3 Qg6** Black's piece activity is going to be too much from here on out. **26.e5 Qxg2 27.Be4 Qg3 28.Nc3 Rxd1+ 29.Nxd1 Qe1 30.Bc2 Qxe5 31.Rh8+ Kc7 32.Nc3 Bd2 33.Ne4 f5 34.Nxd2 Qe1+**

35.Ka2 Qxd2 36.Kb1 a6 37.Rf8 g6 38.Rf7+ Kb8 39.Rg7 g5 40.Rf7 g4 41.Rxf5 g3 42.Rf8+ Ka7 43.Rg8 Qe1+ 44.Ka2 Qe6+ 45.Bb3 Qxg8 46.Bxg8 g2 47.Bh7 g1Q 48.Be4 Qd4 49.Kb3 b5 50.Kc2 a5 51.b3 Kb6 52.Ba8 Qa1 53.a4 Qa2+ 54.Kc3 b4+ 0-1

In the following, positionally tight game, junior Vishruth Sharma holds his own against Sean Perron, despite the significant rating difference.

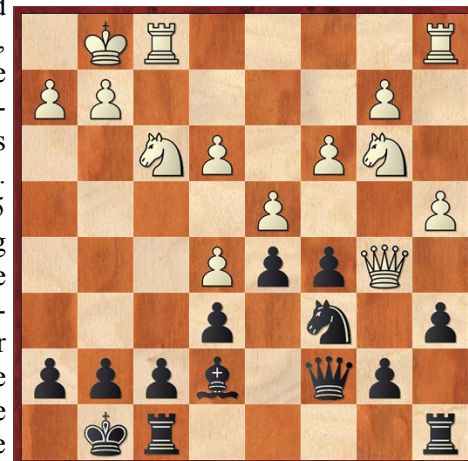
Sharma, Vishruth (1653) - Perron, Sean (2117) [C02]
23rd Medicine Hat Open (4), 24.09.2017

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Bd7 The early bishop move, contrary to the more common **4. ...Nc6** or **4. ...Qb6**, has an interesting idea behind it. **5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Be2 Bb5** Here Black shows why he delayed with **Nc6** - he spent an extra tempo to bring the classic weak French bishop out and force a trade - an idea that isn't possible when the knight is blocking the bishop in. Karpov was in the same position

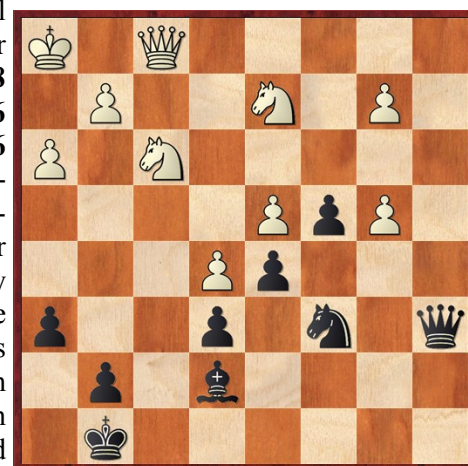


back in 1973 and did the same. **7.0-0 Nc6** No need to rush the trade. White's e2 bishop isn't going anywhere. **8.Be3 Nh6 9.Bxb5 Qxb5 10.Qd2** [See diagram] The computer prefers **10. Bxh6**, a difficult choice to make over the board, as Black

would have an open g-file against the white king. The text move favors Black, as **10. ...Nf5** is strong. **10...Nf5 11.a4 Qa5 12.Qe2 Nxe3 13.fxe3** A viable sacrifice of pawn structure, as it firmly shores up the attacked d4 pawn while opening the f-file. **13. Qxe3** is fine too. **13...Be7 14.Nbd2 0-0 15.Nb3 Qc7 16.Qb5? a6?** [See diagram] Black misses a chance here. Instead



of the text move, **16. ...c4** puts the white queen in danger by cutting off its retreating diagonal. **16...c4 17.Nc5** forced, preventing **a6** with the double attack on **b7**. Moving to any other square drops the queen, but if White doesn't move the knight, he will simply lose the piece. **17...Rab8 18.a5 a6 19.Qa4 Bxc5 20.dxc5 Nxe5** And the efforts White had to go through to save his queen result in his position falling apart. **17.Qe2 Rac8 18.Rac1 Qb6 19.Qc2 h6 20.Kh1 Qc7 21.Rce1 b6 22.Qf2 f6** After some back and forth maneuvering on both sides, Black decides to attempt a breakthrough. **23.exf6 Rxf6 24.Qe2 c4 25.Nbd2 Rcf8 26.e4 b5 27.axb5 axb5 28.e5 R6f7 29.Ra1 b4 30.h3 Rb8 31.Rfb1 Rff8 32.Ra6 Rb6 33.Rba1 Rxa6 34.Rxa6 Qb7 35.Ra1** The computer score has been creeping up for Black for awhile now, but it's not obvious over the board. White has been holding his own, with no tactical blunders on either side. **35...Ra8**



36.Qf1 Ra6 37.Rxa6 Qxa6 38.cxb4? [See diagram] Not an obvious tactical blunder (though positionally suspect), but once the knight recovers on **b4**, nothing can stop him from reaching **d3** and causing problems. **38...Nxb4 39.b3?? c3** The only thing defending the queen on **f1** is the attacked knight on **d2**. Meanwhile, those knights are incapable of stopping the pawn if White tries to trade off the queen. **0-1**

Lethbridge Chess Club

Contact Paul Viminitz
Email: vimip0@uleth.ca

Wrapping Up

Top 10 FIDE Rated Albertans

Oct 1, 2017—Active Residents Only

1	IM Edward Porper	2383
2	Bitan Banerjee	2375
3	IM Richard Wang	2337
4	Belsar Valencia	2304
5	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2299
6	FM Diwen Shi	2293
7	FM Alex Yam	2268
8	FM Ian Findlay	2239
9	CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2232
10	WIM Agnieszka Matras-Clement	2231

Calgary Junior Chess Club
Contact: Vera Li
xiaoqin_li@hotmail.com
www.calgaryjuniorchess.com

University of Calgary Chess Club
Macewan Student Centre
chess.calgary@gmail.com
fb.com/UofCChessClub/

Edmonton Chess Club
#204-10840 124 Street
(780) 424-0283
fb.com/TheEdmontonChessClub

Okotoks Chess Club
Okotoks Library, 7 Riverside Dr. West
Weds: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Richard Bradley: (403) 938-2220
richard.bradley@shaw.ca

La Crete Chess Club
Wed: 7 pm to 9:30 pm (seasonal)
Contact: Chris White
(780) 821-0044 (Cell)
cwnlca@gmail.com

Portage College (Lac La Biche)
Contact: Leslie Boake
(780) 623-5686
lesliec.boake@portagecollege.ca

Airdrie Chess Club
Airdrie Public Library
111-304 Main Street SE
Thurs: 6:30 pm to 8 pm (seasonal)
Contact: Susanne Rempel

University of Lethbridge Chess Club
email: martin.heavyhead@uleth.ca

Fort McMurray Chess Club
Thursdays: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
(780) 790-1008
fmchessclub@hotmail.com
www.fmchess.com

Medicine Hat Chess Club
Contact: Bill Taylor
(403) 526-5484 taylorwm@shaw.ca
www.mhchess.com

Sherwood Park
Strathcona County Library, 2nd Floor
Wednesdays from 4 pm to closing
Contact: Les Jones
(780) 467-7393

University of Alberta
All skill levels welcome to attend!
fb.com/uachess

Lethbridge Junior Chess Club
Contact: Peter Davis-Imhof
phone: (403) 320-4232
peter.davisimhof@gmail.com

Top 20 CFC Rated Albertans

Active Residents—Oct 1, 2017

1	Bitan Banerjee	2476
2	IM Edward Porper	2459
3	IM Richard Wang	2408
7	Gary Ng	2371
4	Belsar Valencia	2354
5	FM Alex Yam	2354
6	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2344
9	FM Dale Haessel	2320
8	CM Rafael Arruebarrena	2319
10	WIM Agn. Matras-Clement	2306
11	FM Loren Laceste	2301
13	Jeff Reeve	2286
14	Daniel Kazmaier	2284
17	Robert Gardner	2280
15	FM Diwen Shi	2278
12	FM Ian Findlay	2265
16	Nicolas Haynes	2263
18	Steven Peter	2235
19	David Miller	2230
20	Sasa Grunic	2224

Banff Chess Academy

101 Bear Street — above the library
Saturdays, 6:30 PM — close
\$2 drop in fee
Active games
Contact Jonathan Day
Email: albertachessday@gmail.com

2017 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

Date	Event	Organizer	Location	Road Warrior Winner
Jan 6-8	Schleinich Memorial*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary	Jerry Kobalenko
Jan-Feb	Regional Youth Ch.	Multiple	Multiple	N/A
Feb 18-19	University Battle of AB	U. Calgary Chess	Calgary	N/A
Feb 18-19	Northern AB Open*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton	Mark Tuvera
Feb 25-26	Calgary Seniors Ch.	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary	N/A
Feb 25-26	AB Youth Championship	Cristian Ivanescu	Edmonton	N/A
Mar 11-12	March of Kings*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary	Jerry Kobalenko
Mar 25	AB Active Championship*	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer	Sardul Purewal
Apr 1-2	Lethbridge Open*	Jerry Mikusek	Lethbridge	Yash Darvekar
Apr 8	AB Chess Challenge	Guoliang Wu	Red Deer	N/A
Apr 8-9	AB Seniors Championship	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton	N/A
Apr 14-16	AB Closed/Reserves*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary	Rafael Arruebarrena
Apr 29-30	Edmonton Intl. Qualifier*	Leah Hughey	Edmonton	Adam Harris
May 13-14	Red Deer Open*	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer	Chris White
Jun 3-4	34th Trumpeter Classic*	Wade Caughlin	Grande Prairie	Ian Findlay
Jun 10-11	Calgary Intl. Qualifier*	Brad Booker	Calgary	Yash Darvekar
Jun 20-25	12th Edmonton International	Dustin Koperski	Edmonton	N/A
Jun 23-25	12th Edmonton Intl. Open*	Dustin Koperski	Edmonton	Gary Ng
Jul 1-2	Fort McMurray Open*	Jina Burn	Fort McMurray	Rob Gardner
Jul 1-3	AB Women's Ch.	Jina Burn	Fort McMurray	N/A
Aug 2-7	10th Calgary International*	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	Agnieszka Matras-Clem.
Aug 26-27	Over/Under 1800*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary	Ian Findlay
Sep 9	Battle of Alberta	Alexey Taranik	Red Deer	N/A
Sep 16-17	Calgary Jr. Regional	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary	N/A
Sep 23-24	23rd Medicine Hat Open*	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat	Sean Perron
Sep30-Oct 1	Edmonton Jr. Regional	Dustin Koperski	Edmonton	N/A
Oct 7-9	Alberta Open*	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton	Jim Daniluk
Oct 27-29	Edmonton Fall Sectional*	Micah Hughey	Edmonton	Jason Green
Nov 10-12	Banff Open*	Ian Findlay	Banff	Douglas Nechio
Nov 18-19	AB Jr. Championship	Vlad Rekhson	Calgary	N/A
Nov 25-26	Southern AB Open*	Frank Kluytmans	Calgary	Yash Darvekar
Dec 16-17	WBX Team Tournament*	Terry Seehagen	Edmonton	Aditya Raininga