



# VANCOUVER CHESS SCHOOL

2017 SUMMER BULLETIN



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	Article
3-4	Chess For Success
5-6	<b>NEW OFFICE</b>
7-9	National/Provincial Championship Training program
10-12	Ultimate Tactics Challenge
13-14	Chess in School Programs
15-16	Ongoing Weekly Tournaments
17	Limited time offer

# CHESS FOR SUCCESS

## SAMUEL TAPLIN



Sam learnt to play chess when he was four. He may have been sick or just bored and his mother, who barely knew the rules, was trying to fill up some hours in a long day. Little did we know what a big part of Sam's life chess would become. When he was in Grade 1, Sam came home from school asking to join a chess class. He had seen a Vancouver Chess School poster up at school. This was the first time Sam had ever asked to be signed up for an activity.

From Day 1, Sam loved chess and the chess school. On most Fridays, he would go to chess class for two hours, then play Friday night Quads for another two hours, spurning Friday night movies and candy with his family. When he got home, he would want to carry on playing chess online. Many weekends he played all-day tournaments and spent much of his free time playing chess online.

Chess has deepened Sam's love of patterns and systems, which has spilled into other pursuits. He adores math and games of strategy. He loves to read maps and figure out where he is. Lately he is into cubing, spending hours every day learning algorithms to speed-solve 2x2 and 3X3 cubes.

Chess is a language Sam can speak anywhere. Whether in a museum in Seattle, where Sam got a rare chess injury – he fell over a giant-sized bishop and skinned his knee – to a park in South Africa where he played a twenty-something student walking by, chess has been a way for him to connect with people anywhere.

# CHESS FOR SUCCESS

## SAMUEL TAPLIN

Chess has also provided new opportunities and experiences for Sam. When the Vancouver Chess School started an after school chess program at his school, he was asked to help the teacher.

Beyond the game itself, chess has taught Sam important life skills. In some tournaments, 65-year-old men are playing five-year-old girls, and losing to them. It is a great leveller of people, and shown Sam that age, status or sex doesn't make any person better than another. It has also taught him good sportsmanship and how to cope with disappointment.

He also now knows how to make a chess cake, having helped make one for his 10th birthday.



# NEW OFFICE

The address of the new office is: Jericho Village Shopping Centre, 312-2083 Alma St Vancouver, BC

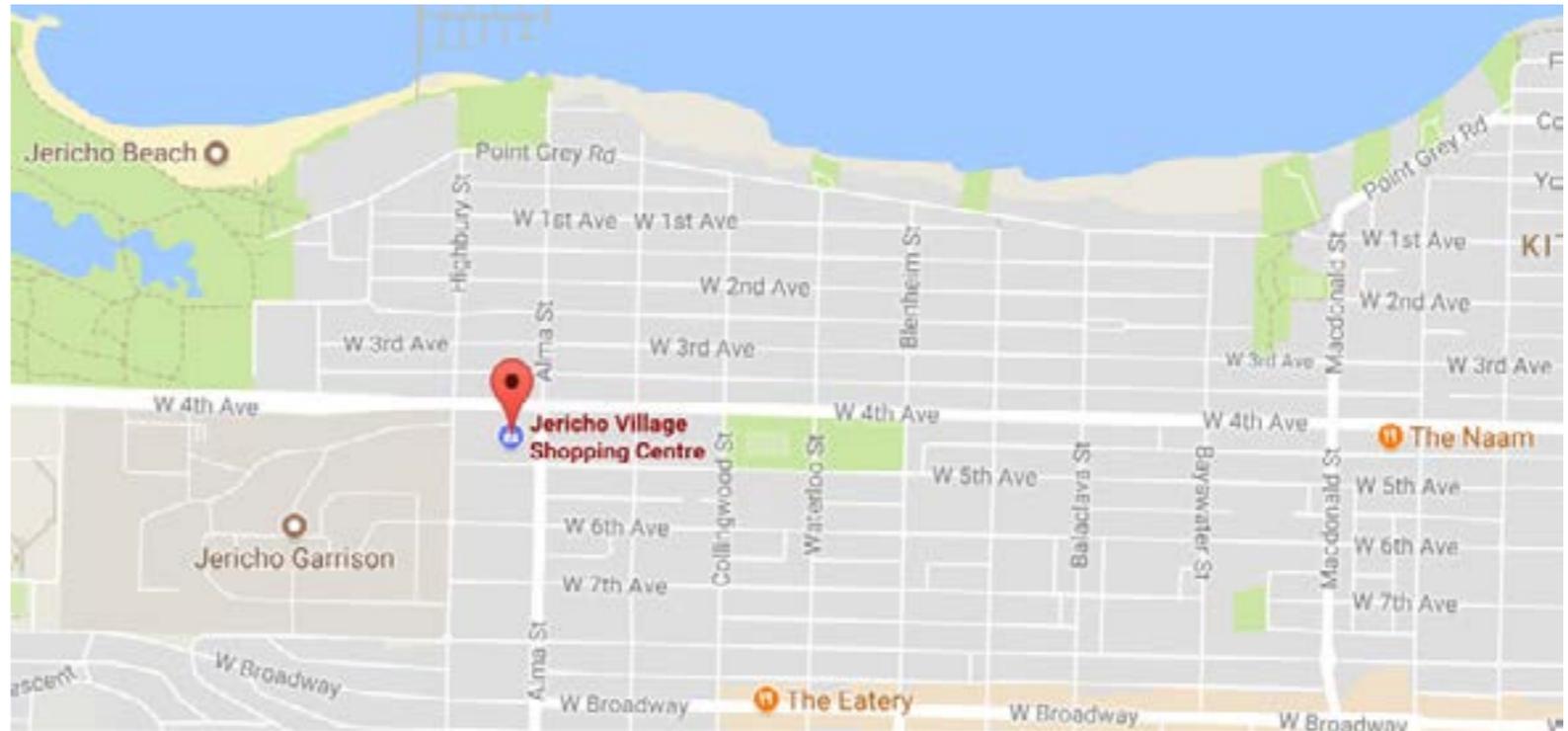
VCS is very pleased to announce we have obtained a new office space that will become our main branch. Located in Kitsilano near Jericho Beach, there are many amenities nearby including coffee shops, grocery stores and ample street parking.



# NEW OFFICE

We are tentatively looking at a late October 2017 – early November 2017 start date at this new location. Further details will be provided as the schedule becomes known. Prior to this move-in, classes will continue to take place at Prince of Wales Secondary. Other locations (Richmond, Coquitlam, Burnaby and Chess in Schools programs) are unaffected by this new office.

Newly renovated to particularly suit VCS needs, this office will be the home of VCS group lessons, private lessons as well as our popular weekly Quad tournaments. We look forward to welcoming you to our new office for an exciting and rewarding new era of the Vancouver Chess School!



# NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

BY VCS PRINCIPAL MAXIM DOROSHENKO  
FIDE MASTER & 2011 BC CHAMPION



This program is intended to prepare our students for the regional, provincial and national chess championships. It is open to all levels, from Intermediate to advanced players. Students will be grouped based on their rating levels, and will receive specific training to enhance their tournament performance. Students can set their goals to participate in Regional, Provincial or National or any combinations.

This intensive program provides additional training on top of regular group and private classes. The topics will include but not limited to:

- \* Explanation of general chess rules & specific rules applied in the Provincial/National championships
- \* Time management in chess tournaments (how to use your time wisely for different time control games)
- \* Practice games using the same time control as Provincial/National championships.

## NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

TRAINING  
PROGRAM



**SIGN UP NOW!**

# NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Training in:

- \* Opening preparation
- \* Tactics exercises
- \* Learning different strategic concepts
- \* Endgame practice
- \* Improving calculation skills
- \* Rated tournaments with game analysis

Online homework after each session is a key component in this program to ensure the participants have opportunities to review what they have learnt. We request the students to complete the homework as mandatory exercises in this program. Students can work at their own pace and work through the weeks until the next workshop. Coaches are available to help if any questions arise. Please remember all the activities are designed to be building blocks to assist our students to reach their peak performance at the major chess championships.

## BC CHESS CHALLENGE 2018



The Winners  
of BC Chess  
Challenge will  
form Team BC.

1 day event , K-12  
Regular 5-round Swiss,  
25/5, CMA Rated

Regional #1

Date: TBA

Location: TBA

Regional #2

Date: TBA

Location: TBA

Regional #3

Date: TBA

Location: TBA

**SIGN UP NOW, THE SPACE IS LIMITED!**

# NATIONAL/PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM TEAM



**FM Tanraj Sohal** CMA rating: 2500/ CFC 2386 / FIDE 2304  
 9-time National Champion (Canadian record). 12-time Provincial Champion  
 5-time BC Open Champion. 2013 BC Closed Champion. 2015 and 2017 BC Active  
 Champion. 2016 and 2017 Keres Memorial Champion. 2017 Grand Pacific Open  
 Champion. 2010 CYCC U-14 Champion  
 Represented Canada at the 2008 WYCC in Vietnam, 2010 WYCC in Greece, and 2012  
 WYCC in Slovenia



**Janak Awatramani** CMA rating: 2466/ CFC 2227/ FIDE 2213  
 6-time Canadian National Champion. 6-time Provincial Champion  
 World Youth Chess Championships (tied for 7th place) 2007. BC Junior Champion 2009  
 North American Champion, Mazatlan, Mexico 2010. Switzerland (Biel) Under 18  
 Champion, 2010. Canadian Open Blitz runner up 2012. Grand Pacific Open Blitz  
 Champion 2012, 2013. Manhattan, NY Open Blitz Champion 2014. Described as one of  
 the greatest (if not the greatest) FICS Bughouse players of all time with a peak rating  
 3000 plus. Winner of the first World Crazy House Candidates Championship, 2017.



**Jeremy Hui** CMA rating: 2115/ CFC 2225/FIDE 2065  
 2-time National Champion/5-time Provincial Champion  
 Represented Canada at the 2013 World Youth Chess Championships in Al Ain, UAE  
 2-time winner of Vancouver Rapid Chess League with Team BC Juniors  
 2013 BC Under-16 Champion (tied)  
 Winner of 2012 Paul Keres Memorial U2000 (tied)

3 Terms: Fall, Winter, Spring

Fall term dates: Sep 9, 16, 30 Oct 14, 28 Nov 4, 25, Dec 9

Location: Columbia College (438 Terminal Ave, Vancouver)

Sibling discount 20% off for 2nd member or higher in the family. For preparation purposes, no onsite registration is allowed.

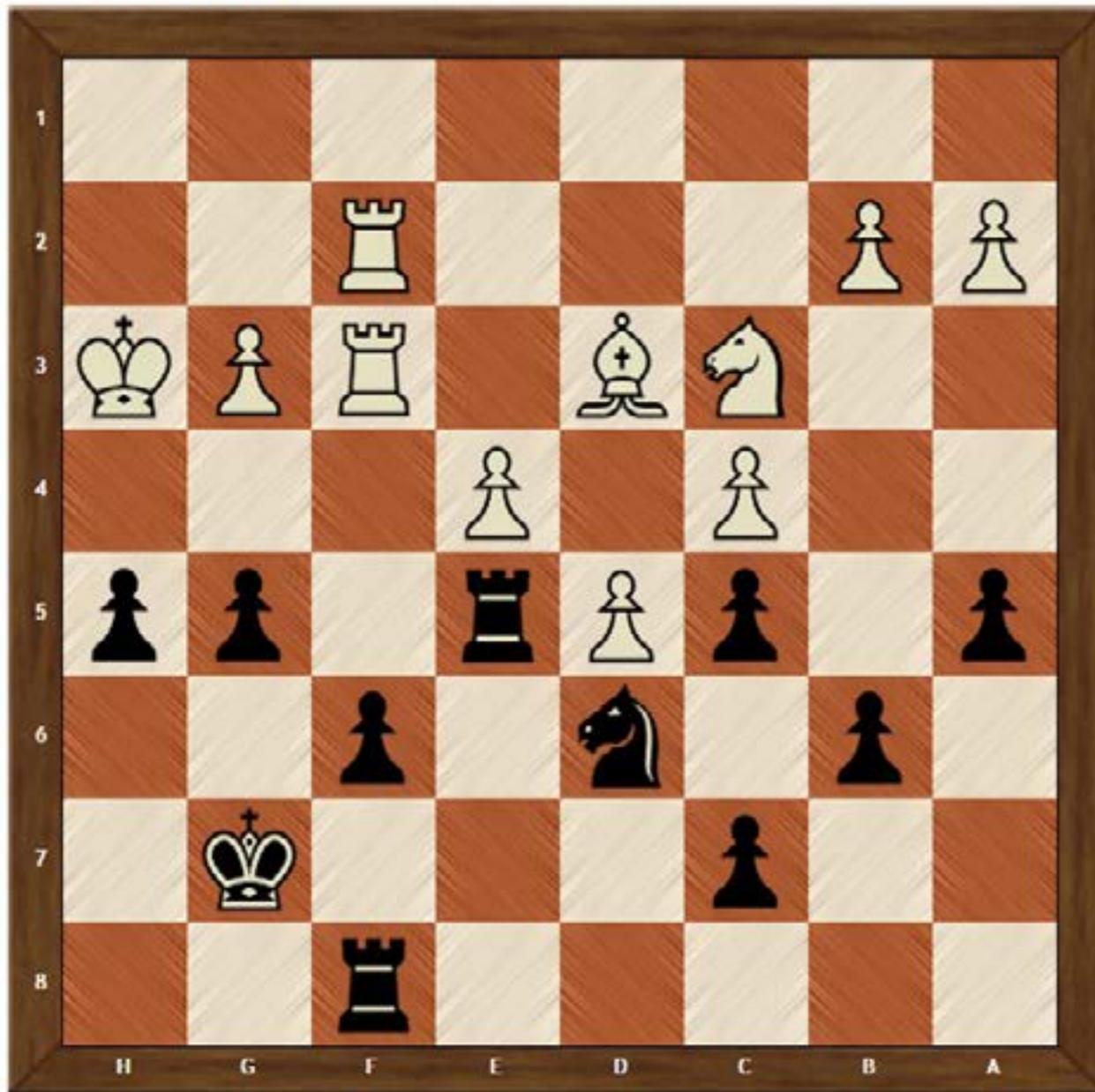
[Program details and registration](#)

# ULTIMATE TACTICS CHALLENGE

VCS is very proud to announce the arrival of a feature that has been many years in the making – Ultimate Tactics Challenge!

## ULTIMATE TACTICS CHALLENGE

[Statistics](#) [Report a problem](#)



RATING: 422 (+44↑)

**CORRECT(+10)**



1... [g4](#) 2. [Kh4](#) [gxf3](#)





# ULTIMATE TACTICS CHALLENGE

One of the most important components of this exciting new feature is the rating. As students work through the exercises, the computer will modify their tactics rating, increasing as students successfully complete progressively more difficult exercises. Having a rated Tactics Trainer provides a motivation for students to work hard and improve their tactical vision – we strongly encourage all students to take full advantage of this new feature and enjoy the tactical benefits it will bring to their games.

Introducing tactical vision training at an early stage, fosters an instinctual and expeditious assessment of positions, to gain a tangible advantage, after a sequence of moves. It is precisely this that we hope to achieve with the Ultimate Tactics Challenge, targeting intensive tactical training early on to promote understanding, appreciation, motivation and ultimately, improvement, in all of our students.

The screenshot displays the user interface for the Ultimate Tactics Challenge. At the top, there is a blue header with the title. Below it is a navigation bar with three tabs: GAMES, TESTS, and PROGRESS. A dropdown menu is open under the TESTS tab, listing options: Chess Mentor Exercises, Tactics Trainer chess.ca, and Ultimate Tactics Challenge (highlighted in a darker orange). To the right of the menu, there is a 'My Rating' section with a table showing ratings for FIDE, CFC, and CMA. Below that is a 'My Homework' section with a table showing completion and performance percentages.

FIDE	CFC	CMA
0	0	692

Completion	Performance
99.47%	83.54%

# CHESS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Chess in Schools (CIS) program is VCS's newest initiative to fulfill the core mandate of continuing chess education throughout the Lower Mainland. With 20 participating schools, CIS allows our chess school to have a much broader reach, and enables students throughout the region to have access to our comprehensive chess program. Open to everyone, CIS is able to teach groups of students with varying levels using our unique software and by assigning different class material and homework according to student's level of chess ability. The CIS program consists of the same format as our usual VCS classes, with the coach presenting the class material and students playing against each other as well. Using custom software VCS is able to cater each lesson to the student's needs and the online homework provides extensive practice and exposure to key concepts for optimal improvement.



**VCS** Before & After  
School Chess Program

*Chess is the gymnasium of the mind.*  
(Blaise Pascal)

**VCS**  
Before & After  
School Chess Program

Comprehensive and Flexible ✓	Professional Instruction ✓	Interactive and Fun ✓	Effective Training ✓	All Inclusive Chess Education Service ✓	We are a Local Company ✓
------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	---	--------------------------

VANCOUVER CHESS SCHOOL    [www.vanchess.ca](http://www.vanchess.ca)    [info@vanchess.ca](mailto:info@vanchess.ca)    Voicemail (604) 568-3283

# CHESS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM



# VCS

---

Before & After  
School Chess  
Program

---

A special thank you goes out to VCS's dedicated CIS volunteers Stephanie Gu, Alex Yu, Brian Yang and Bill Wang. These VCS students give their time to assist both the coach and students in these classes and their dedication and efforts are much appreciated. VCS is always happy to have more senior students volunteering in CIS classes – if you are interested in volunteering next semester please contact VCS to inquire about schedules and opportunities.

We are accepting students on a rolling basis – see the schedule below and the webpage for full details: <http://vanchess.ca/content/view/page/chess-in-schools>  
CIS programs list:  
[http://vanchess.ca/groups/index/city/vancouver/location\\_type\\_id/2](http://vanchess.ca/groups/index/city/vancouver/location_type_id/2) as of  
September 1st 2017.

As part of VCS's mandate to increase junior chess participation throughout the Lower Mainland and to make chess available to all students, we are always looking to expand our Chess in Schools program by welcoming new schools. If you believe your school or your child's school would be interested in having a Chess in Schools program, please contact us at [info@vanchess.ca](mailto:info@vanchess.ca). We look forward to working with you!

# ONGOING WEEKLY TOURNAMENTS

One of the Vancouver Chess School's most popular events, the Quads tournaments take place every Friday evening in Vancouver (and every Saturday afternoon in Coquitlam). Two more weekly tournaments will be introduced in Richmond & Burnaby on Sundays starting September 2017. A perfect entry-level tournament, the Quads are very unique in their format, as they allow all players the chance to play in a quad of 4 players, against 3 other players of comparable strength. Unlike most open tournaments where players may get paired against opponents of vastly different strength, the weekly Quads ensure 3 competitive, quality games against opponents of a similar strength.

We strongly encourage all players, in particular those who have just begun playing chess and would like to be introduced to tournament play, to participate in this friendly yet still competitive weekly event. It is an excellent opportunity to gain tournament experience, learn valuable lessons and make new friends – we hope to see every there!

For more information, visit the website's event page at [http://vanchess.ca/events?events\[0\]=14](http://vanchess.ca/events?events[0]=14).



# ONGOING WEEKLY TOURNAMENTS

**VCS QUADS**  
ONGOING WEEKLY TOURNAMENTS

**VANCOUVER**  
FRIDAYS, 7 - 9:00 pm

**COQUITLAM**  
SATURDAYS, 3:30 - 5:30 PM

**BURNABY (FALL 2017)**  
SUNDAYS, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

**RICHMOND (FALL 2017)**  
SUNDAYS, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

3 CMA rated games  
Time control: Rapid

**ENTRY FEE \$15**

- Chess sets and clocks are provided.
- Please bring your own scorebook.



- Let your kids have fun by playing chess with their friends and classmates
- Earn a rating and track your performance
- Reinforce the lessons learned in weekly classes through practice
- Take a chance to relax on a Friday night, while your kids play in the tournament



ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY

# LIMITED TIME OFFER

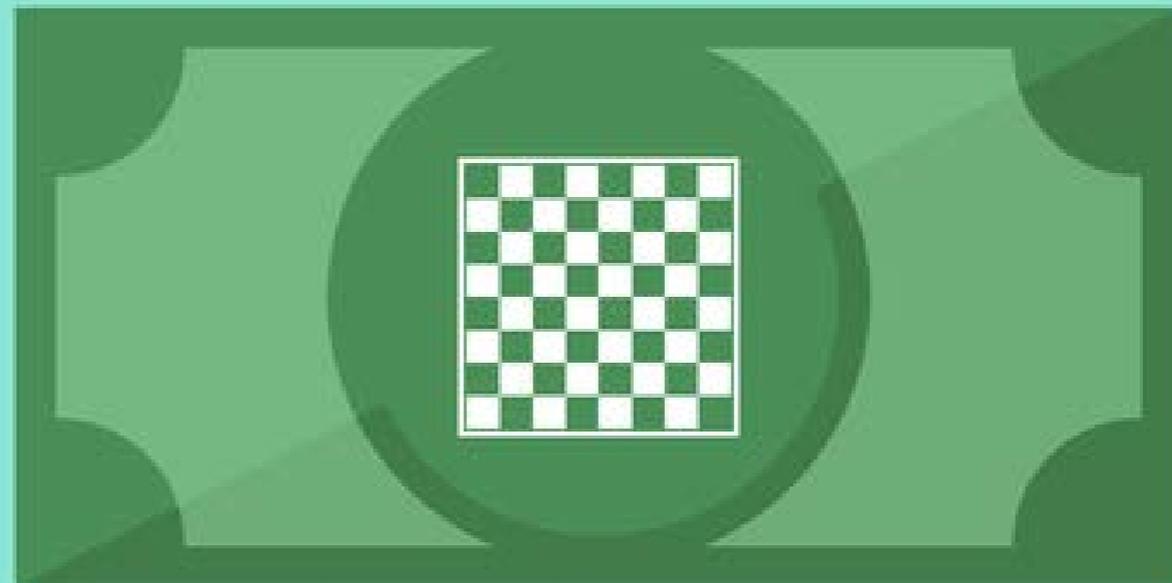
Don't leave your friends behind!

Invite friends to learn chess and gain two free Quad Tournament Coupons.

VCS is offering an exclusive deal to all our students and parents starting June 1, 2017. A 30\$ value free Quad Tournament coupons will be given to parents for referring new students to VCS.

During the online registration process the new student MUST indicate your e-mail address in the Reference Field (this e-mail should be the one you use to login to your VCS Parent Account). Our system will automatically add 2 coupons on your Parent account.

Please note that the VCS Quad Tournament coupons are non-refundable and non-transferable.



[WWW.VANCHESS.CA](http://WWW.VANCHESS.CA)