

# ***New Zealand Chess***

Magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)

July 2011

Volume 38 Number 3



**George Trundle IM  
winner Bobby Cheng**



**Genesis Potini**



**South Island  
Champion Stephen  
Lukey**



**NZ Junior Champion  
Luke Li**

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North Shore Open and South  
Island Championship Reports**

**Official publication of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc) Published January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1**

Please send all reports, letters and other contributions to the Editor at alan@nzchessmag.com.

Please use annotated pgn or ChessBase format exclusively for chess material.

**Editorial**

Editor Alan Aldridge  
Technical Editor Bill Forster  
bill@nzchessmag.com

**Annual Subscription Rates**

NZ: \$24.00 plus postage \$4.00 total \$28.00  
International: NZD24.00 plus postage NZD12.00

**Advertising Rates**

Full page \$50.00  
Half Page Horizontal \$30.00  
Quarter page Horizontal \$20.00

**NZCF Contact Details**

New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)  
PO Box 216  
Shortland Street  
Auckland  
Secretary Helen Milligan

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# Bobby Cheng Steps Up

## An IM Norm and winner of 2011 George Trundle

By Mike Steadman

This year as usual started very early for me, trying to get the international players locked in for the event. Due to the Rugby World Cup, we had to play the tournament in the July school holidays again although this didn't seem to turn any of the players off, the NZ places filled up quickly.

The first issue I struck was that the 3<sup>rd</sup> federation IMs needed and normally coming from Australia had seemed to have either left Australia or were now playing poker. At the last minute Paul Spiller suggested we invite a player from Singapore to try and broaden the net and hopefully get reciprocal invites in the future. After various email flows, IM PK Chan graciously accepted our invitation and completed the field of titled players.

Trying to refresh the field again, we invited GM Darryl Johansen back and the first visit for IM Igor Goldenberg. Darryl has enjoyed his trips to us in the past and Igor was always keen to play, so with a strong field it wasn't going to be an easy event for the IM norm aspirants. With the departing of Nic Croad the Kiwi contingent had dropped by one and looking at the FIDE website, the over 2200 player pickings in NZ are very thin. So an additional Aussie

junior was invited, Max Illingworth.

Back again was Bobby Cheng who just gets stronger every year, while the usual ageing Kiwi suspects were there, Smith, Watson and Steadman. With the high rating of the Aussie juniors it meant we could get Daniel Shen into the event.

We have struggled to get the next layer of players to come through. The Qualifier is meant to be just that, to find the next 2200 player and bring them into the next year's IM tournament. The issue we are having is that none of these juniors are pushing on through the 2200 barrier.

This year the Qualifier gave us more hope, we have 4 promising juniors in their ranks. The hope was one of them would blitz the field and then bounce on from this event and get their rating high enough to be invited into the IM tournament next year.

Nature was this year trying to haunt us, we had the volcano in Chile stopping Qantas flights and the earthquakes in Christchurch. Due to the continued upheaval in the Christchurch area, Stephen Lukey had to pull out, he just would not be able to give it his best while he worried about his family being in the earthquake zone. So the invite went out to Gino to see if he could get the time off, but work commitments stopped him. Luckily for us the players in the field

had all had good rating performances on the last list, this allowed us to invite a mid 2100 rated player to keep the 6.5 from 9 IM norm requirement. Antonio Krstev was able to step up to ensure the field was set. I then had to find a replacement for the Qualifiers, Justin Davis had always pestered us about playing and so we offered him the place, he jumped at the chance, and we were set again.

Bruce Wheeler started to feel unwell and had to withdraw from the Qualifier, luckily Richard Taylor stepped in so the field was still 10. Helen Milligan offered up her place to a junior and Nicole Tsoi accepted, so fields were set and the draw was made, This year we had Keong Ang as arbiter for the George Trundle IM and Ewen Green as arbiter for the Qualifier. Fide has pulled a money making call and now require all titled events to have recognised FIDE Arbiters. Ewen had all the norms, but something went wrong in the processing, so he wasn't recognised as yet. Safest was to ask Keong if he would help out. He was happy to as he would get in practice using the electronic boards. Keong will be an arbiter at the Queenstown event this year and it was important that he got more experience administering and setting up the boards.

So Saturday rolled around and we turned up to the chess centre to find that Johansen and Goldenberg have not arrived, their flight was cancelled. Turns out they had been pushed onto a Saturday flight and were due to arrive at 9.30 pm. As luck would have it, they were playing each other in round 1, so we were hoping they played their game in flight !

## Round 1

Chan v Steadman was a Classical Dutch. I think Chan was surprised that I didn't play my Stonewall, he did not play the most aggressive line and Black got easy equality. Black moved his pieces over to the Kingside and Chan had to sacrifice an exchange to stay in the game, but Black was always in control and converted the point. Smith v Krstev was a Classical French, the players castled on opposite wings and Black proceeded to attack the White king, when the attack ran out of steam, Smith let loose on the kingside and Black could not defend, Smith won with a nice combination to finish. Shen v Cheng was another French, Shen played his pet Bd2 line of the Winawer, Cheng was better prepared and defused the threats, he swapped off, won a pawn and then won a Queen and pawn endgame. Illingworth v Watson was a Sicilian. Max turned up with good preparation and got good pressure, he won a pawn, then proceeded to play meekly. Bruce started to get play and the endgame was very tough to defend. Bruce is an expert at these endgames and sure enough he collected the point. Goldenberg v Johansen was a main line Slav, the theory goes long and deep on these lines and they both knew it well. A draw was the result of this heavyweight clash.

### **Smith,Robert (2281) - Krstev,Antonio (2150)**

2011\_George Trundle IM (1.4), 16.07.2011

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.f4 a6 8.Nf3 c5 9.dxc5 Qxc5 10.Qd2 b5 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.0-0-0 Nb6 13.Kb1 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.h4 0-0 16.h5 Rb8 17.Ne2 Rd8 18.c3 Rd7 19.Rc1**

Rdb7 20.Rc2 a5 21.Ned4 Bd7 22.Nxc6 Bxc6 23.Qf2 Qa3 24.Ka1 Qe7 25.Nd4 Bd7 26.h6 g6 27.g4 f6 28.Qh4 Rf8 29.Re2 Rf7 30.Rhe1 Rb6 31.Qf2 Qc5 32.Qe3 f5 33.gxf5 gxf5 34.Rg1+ Kh8 35.Reg2 Rb8 36.Qg3 Qf8 37.Qh4 Qe7 38.Rg5 Rbf8 39.Qg3 Qd8 40.Rg7 Qc8 (=) 41.Nf3 Qe8 42.Ng5 Rxc7 43.hxc7+ Kxc7 44.Nf7+ Black resigns. 1-0

Stuart v Li was Peter's usual English, Luke sacrificed a pawn to get activity, Peter played passively and Luke wrapped up the point with a nice combination. Bennett v Davis was a Kings Indian attack against Justin's Sicilian, Hilton did not seem to press on the Kingside and tried to come through the middle of the board, Justin had an easy game, proceeded to swap into an endgame a pawn up, the rest was an easy win. Tsoi v Gao was a Closed Sicilian, Hans plays this line himself, so would be interesting to see how he went. Nicole built up slowly, but used a lot of time getting a good position. Hans turned down a draw offer and then proceeded downhill, one move after the time control he resigned. Tanoi v Goodhue was Nathan trying his Hippopotamus line, Edward played c4 and d5 when Nathan hit in the centre with c5. Edward proceeded to squeeze with his space advantage and attacked on both wings, the mistake finally occurred and Edward won a piece and easily converted the point. Ansell v Taylor saw Alan's favourite f3 Nimzo, White won a pawn, but it was not easy to convert, Alan played steadily and won an Exchange, in so doing he managed to get the Queens off, he played a nice mating combination to finish and mated Richard on the side of the board.

Ansell, Alan (2069) - Taylor, Richard (1896)

2011\_GTrundle Qualifier (1.2), 16.07.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.dxc5 f5 9.Nh3 Nc6 10.Nf4 0-0 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Bf4 Be6 13.Bd6 Rf7 14.e3 Qg5 15.Qd2 Re8 16.h4 Qf6 17.Bb5 Bd7 18.Kf2 Qh6 19.g3 Be6 20.Rhe1 Rc8 21.Rab1 Qf6 22.Bxc6 Rxc6 23.Qd4 Qd8 24.Qe5 Qc8 25.Rb5 Ra6 26.Reb1 h6 27.R1b2 Kh7 28.Qd4 Qc6 29.a4 Bc8 30.R5b4 Rd7 31.Rd2 b6 32.f4 bxc5 33.Bxc5 Bb7 34.Rb5 Qg6 35.Rdb2 Bc6 36.R5b4 Qg4 37.Kg2 g5 38.hxc5 hxc5 39.Rb8 Rg7 40.Bf8 gxf4 41.Qxc7+ Qxc7 42.Bxc7 Kxc7 43.exf4 Rxa4 44.Kf2 Rc4 45.Ra2 Rxc3 46.Rxa7+ Kf6 47.Rh8 Rc2+ 48.Ke3 Kg6 49.Rd8 Rc3+ 50.Kd2 Rc4 51.Rd6+ Kh5 52.Rg7 d4 53.Rg5# 1-0

## Round 2

Steadman v Smith saw Bob trying his Accelerated Dragon – I was prepared and played the sharpest line, but Bob did not play down the sharp line and White had a plus early, slight space advantage and a lead in development. Bob did not play the most precise line and I found a Rook lift that he couldn't defend against, my attack broke through and scored the point. Cheng v Johansen was a Queens Gambit and Bobby looked to have a tiny edge, but Darryl's position was very solid and he swapped Rooks off to ensure a draw. Krstev v Goldenberg was a Kings Indian and Antonio played his Samisch, Igor opened up the dark squared Bishop by putting a Knight on f4 and forcing Antonio to take it with his black squared Bishop. He

then crashed through on the Queenside for a nice win. Watson v Chan was a Catalan/Reti with Peng Kong sitting on a Slav type formation. Peng Kong swapped the central pawns and left Bruce with hanging pawns and when one of them advanced Peng Kong manoeuvred around until he won it. He swapped all the bits down to a Bishop endgame and proceeded to wrap up the point. Shen v Illingworth was Daniel playing his Bb5+ line against the Sicilian, Max equalised but then wandered again, suddenly he lost a pawn and then the rest of the game was Daniel pushing the extra pawn down the board.

**Steadman,Michael (2254) - Smith,Robert (2281)**

2011 George Trundle IM (2.3), 17.07.2011  
**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.e5 Nc6 6.Qa4 Nd5 7.Qe4 Nc7 8.Bf4 Bg7 9.Nc3 b5 10.0-0-0 b4 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Qxd5 Qb6 13.h4 h6 14.Bc4 e6 15.Qd2 a5 16.Rhe1 a4 17.Re3 Qc5 18.Qe2 Ra5 19.Nd2 Nd4 20.Qd3 Nf5 21.Ne4 Qc6 22.Re2 h5 23.f3 Ba6 24.Bxa6 Rxa6 25.g4 Ne7 26.Nd6+ Kf8 27.Re4 Ra8 28.Rxb4 hxg4 29.fxg4 Rxh4 30.Bg5 Rh1 31.Rf4 Rxd1+ 32.Kxd1 Ra5 33.Rxf7+ Kg8 34.c4 Rxe5 35.Bxe7 Qh1+ 36.Rf1 Qg2 37.Qf3 Qxb2 38.Qa8+ Kh7 39.Rh1+ Rh5 40.gxh5 Qb1+ 41.Ke2** Black resigns 1-0

**Krstev,Antonio (2150) - Goldenberg,Igor (2388)**

2011 George Trundle IM (2.2), 17.07.2011  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.f3 d6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nge2 a6 8.Qd2 Rb8 9.a4 e5 10.d5 Na5 11.Nc1 c5 12.Bd3 Nh5 13.g4 Nf4 14.Bxf4 exf4 15.Kd1 Qb6 16.Kc2 Be5 17.Ra3 Qb4 18.N1a2 Nxc4 19.Bxc4**

**Qxc4 20.b3 Qd4 21.Qe2 Bg7 22.Rd1 Qe5 23.a5 Bd7 24.Qd2 Rfc8 25.h4 b5 26.axb6 Rxb6 27.Rb1 h6 28.Nc1 g5 29.h5 Rcb8 30.Nd3 Qd4 31.Ne2 Qf6 32.Nc3 c4 33.bxc4 Rxb1 34.e5 dxe5 35.Nxb1 e4 36.fxe4 Rb2+ 37.Nxb2 Qxb2+ 38.Kd3 Qxb1+ 39.Qc2 Qe1 40.Qa2 Qd1+** White resigns 0-1

**Shen,Daniel (2165) - Illingworth,Max (2389)**

2011\_Geo\_Trundle\_IM (2.4), 17.07.2011  
**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.Qd3 h6 9.0-0 Nf6 10.Nd2 b5 11.Rd1 Bg4 12.f3 Qb6+ 13.Kh1 Be6 14.Nf1 b4 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 g6 17.Be3 Qb7 18.a3 bxa3 19.Rxa3 Bg7 20.Rb3 Qd7 21.Rb6 0-0 22.Rxa6 e4 23.fxe4 Rxa6 24.Qxa6 Nxe4 25.Qd3 Qf5 26.b3 Rc8 27.c4 Ra8 28.Kg1 Ra2 29.Bd4 Bxd4+ 30.Qxd4 Nc5 31.Re1 Ra8 32.b4 Nd7 33.c5 dxc5 34.bxc5 Rc8 35.c6 Qf6 36.Qg4 Nb6 37.Rb1 Qd8 38.Ne3 Ra8 39.Qd4 Nc8 40.Ng4 Nd6 41.Nf6+ Kf8 42.Nd7+ Kg8 43.Qe5 Nc4 44.Qf4 Na5 45.c7 Qe7 46.Rb8+ Kh7 47.Nf6+ Kg7 48.Rxa8 Qe1+ 49.Qf1** Black resigns 1-0

Davis v Tsoi was a mainline Qg4 Winawer, Justin won the pawn and then it was a question of whether Nicole would get the active play usually seen. Justin managed to swap the Queens, but had to give the pawn back. Black's King found itself short of squares and with Nicole running short of time, Justin wrapped up the point. Taylor v Stuart was a Sicilian and when the Queens came off Richard had pressure on Black's position, once all the pieces came off, Richard had an extra pawn and a Bishop versus Knight, he duly collected the full

point. Goodhue v Gao was a b3 system where Nathan changed tack and played it like an English. His position wasn't overly promising, but at least Hans wasn't playing his Kings Indian type setup. The game wandered and after some pieces were swapped off, a draw was agreed. Li v Bennett was a Samisch Kings Indian where Hilton tried the Bronstein Queen sacrifice for 2 Bishops and 2 pawns, Luke managed to untangle and open some lines through to Black's position, an exchange sacrifice ensured that he made the inroads necessary for the win. Tanoi v Ansell was a Panov Botvinnik line of the Caro Kann. Edward worked for the isolated pawn line and Alan bolted down the d5 square. Slowly but surely Alan managed to get Edward to swap pieces off and once the Queens came off, there was always only going to be one winner, Alan played a nice endgame for the win.

## Round 3

Goldenberg v Steadman was a weird Dutch, Igor had pressure right from the start, but my position had squirming chances. Igor missed a win and I nearly got a draw, unfortunately another mistake and the game was lost. Smith v Watson was a Kings Indian attack against Bruce's Sicilian. The position became blocked and there was no opportunity for a win. Johansen v Krstev transposed into a Panov Botvinnik and Darryl gradually outplayed Antonio, he won a pawn and then the game. Illingworth v Cheng saw Max take on Bobby's French, White had a great position and had a chance to take Black's Bishop and have 2 Bishops vs 2 Knights

and a sure grind, but Max saw a big sacrificial attack, however there was one saving line and Bobby found it, he kept his extra piece and won the game. Chan v Shen was a Slav with very little for White, Daniel easily diffused the pressure and a draw resulted.

### (13) Illingworth,Max (2389) - Cheng,Bobby (2323)

2011 George Trundle IM (3.1), 18.07.2011  
**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 h6 4.c3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bd7 6.Nf3 Bc6 7.Bd3 Nf6 8.Ng3 Nbd7 9.0-0 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 c6 11.Re1 Be7 12.Qe2 0-0 13.Nf5 Re8 14.Nxg7 Kxg7 15.Bxh6+ Kh8 16.Qf3 Qa5 17.Re3 Qh5 18.Qxh5 Nxh5 19.Rh3 Ng7 20.Re1 Kg8 21.Ree3 Bf8 22.Rhg3 f5 23.Bc4 (=) 23...Kf7 24.Bxg7 Bxg7 25.Bxe6+ Rxe6 26.Rxe6 Kxe6 27.Rxg7 c5 28.dxc5 Nxc5 29.h4 Rf8 30.b4 Nd7 31.c4 Rf7 32.Rg3 Ne5 33.Ra3 a6 34.c5 Kd5 35.Rc3 Kd4 36.Rc2 Kd3 37.Rc1 Rg7 38.g3 Kd2 39.Rb1 Nf3+ 40.Kf1 Kc2 41.Ra1 Nd2+ 42.Kg2 Nb1 43.Kf3 Kb2 44.Rxb1+ Kxb1 45.Kf4 Kxa2 46.Kxf5 Kb3 47.h5 Kxb4 48.h6 Rf7+ 49.Kg6 Rxf2 50.g4 a5 51.g5 a4 52.Kh7 a3 53.g6 a2 54.g7 Rg2** White resigns. 0-1

### Goldenberg,Igor (2389) - Steadman,Michael (2254)

2011 George Trundle IM (3.4), 18.07.2011  
**1.Nf3 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d5 5.0-0 Nbd7 6.d3 Bd6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Nb5 Be7 9.Bf4 Ne8 10.Nbd4 Nb6 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Qd2 Nd6 13.a4 c5 14.Nb3 Nf7 15.Qc2 Nd7 16.Ne1 d4 17.e4 fxe4 18.Bxe4 g5 19.Bd2 Rb8 20.Na5 Nf6 21.Bg2 Nd5 22.Nc4 b6 23.Nf3 Bb7 24.Nfe5 Nxe5 25.Nxe5 Bf6 26.Rae1 Kg7 27.Qd1 Qc7 28.Qh5 Ne3 29.fxe3 Qxe5 30.Bxb7 Rxb7**

31.e4 h6 32.Rf5 Qe8 33.Qg4 Qg6 34.Ref1 Rbf7 35.b4 Be7 36.b5 Rxf5 37.exf5 Qf7 38.h4 h5 39.Qe4 gxh4 40.gxh4 Bf6 41.Qf4 Re8 42.Rf2 Kf8 43.Rg2 Re5 44.Qf3 Qd5 45.Qxh5 Rxf5 46.Bh6+ Ke7 47.Re2+ Re5 48.Bf4 Qg8+ 49.Kf1 Rxe2 50.Qxe2+ Kd8 51.h5 Qd5 52.Qg4 c4 53.dxc4 Qxc4+ (=) 54.Kg2 d3 55.Qf5 Qd4 56.Kf3 Qc3 57.Qd5+ Ke7 58.Qd6+ Kf7 59.Qc7+ Ke6 60.Qxc3 Bxc3 61.Ke3 d2 62.Ke2 Kf5 63.Bxd2 Bxd2 64.Kxd2 Kg5 65.Ke3 Kxh5 66.Ke4 Black resigns. 1-0

Gao v Bennett was a Modern with Gao trying to attack and Hilton holding the position together. Hans sacrificed his pieces with an eye on the mate, but Hilton found a defensive line and cashed in for his first point. Davis v Stuart was a Queens Indian with Justin playing the same piece sacrifice line he played against Peter at Congress. Peter was better prepared this time and secured his King and the piece told in the end. Tsoi v Li was an Exchange French. Tings looked pretty even for most of the game, then Luke caught Tsoi off guard and won the game. Ansell v Goodhue was a 1.b6 opening that soon turned into a bad Scandinavian. Nathan did well to hold his position, at one stage he had a win on the board but missed it in time trouble. After this opportunity the King and pawn ending was lost, another win for Alan. Taylor v Tanoi transposed into a Philidor's Defence, nothing much happened and they agreed a draw.

### Davis, Justin - Stuart, Peter

George Trundle Qualifier (3), 18.07.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Ba6 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf4 d5 8.cxd5

**Bxf1 9.dxe6 Ba6 10.exf7+ Kxf7 11.e4** This was first played by William Lombardy in 1957 against Paul Keres and was not rediscovered until 2004. I had never seen it when Justin ambushed me with it last year. In that game I decided that Black had two choices, 11...c5 or 11...Bc4. I opted for c7-c5 but blundered the piece back (for nothing) a few moves later and lost ignominiously. Apart from Keres' 11...Nc6 all the other games in my Mega database (only 8 of them) have seen 11...c5, usually with similar results. **11...Bc4!?** **12.b3** [12.Qa4? Qxd4! (This was why I rejected 11...Bc4 - I failed to understand that Qxd4 was perfectly safe.) 13.Be3 b5 is good for Black, e.g. 14.Nxb5 Qxe4 15.Rc1 Bxb5 16.Qxb5 c6 17.Qb3+ Nd5 18.0-0 Rd8µ; After 12.e5 the only move is 12...Nc6 returning the piece and leaving Black a pawn down, but with ample compensation in the weak d-pawn and a king trapped in the centre.] **12...Ba6 13.e5 Re8 14.Nce2?** Presumably White would like to get castled but this lets the f6-knight escape. I think 14.Be3 was best when the knight still cannot escape as 14...Ng8 allows mate in three. **14...Nd5 15.Qc2** It's hard to suggest anything better as Black should be able to consolidate now. **15...Kg8 16.0-0 Nxf4 17.Bxf4 Qd5 18.Rfd1 Bb7 19.f3 c5 20.Nc3** [20.Kh1 is similar to the game continuation.] **20...Qf7 21.Be3 cxd4 22.Bxd4 Nc6 23.Kh1 Red8 24.Nb5 Nxd4** [Maybe 24...Rd5! was even better.] **25.Rxd4 Rxd4 26.Nxd4 Rc8 27.Qb2 Be5 28.Rc1 Bxd4 29.Rxc8+ Bxc8 30.Qxd4 Qd7?** [Sloppy thinking - just swap queens and win a piece up. But it's not so clear with the queens still on the board when passed pawns are what matter. So it was better to win the pawn with 30...Qxb3!

when White soon runs out of checks.] **31.Qc4+ Kf8 32.h3** Accompanied by a draw offer! **32...Bb7 33.Qf4+ Ke8 34.Qc4 Bd5 35.Qd3 h6 36.b4 Bf7 37.Qc3 Kf8 38.Qe3 Qd5 39.Qf4 Qc4 40.Qd2 Qd5 41.Qf4 Ke7!?** **42.Qe3** [42.Qh4+! Ke8 43.Qg3 g5 44.e6 Bxe6 45.Qb8+ Qd8 46.Qxa7 Qd1+ 47.Kh2 Qd6+ 48.Kh1 Bd7 is still not a clear win.] **42...Ke6 43.f4 Bg6** Back on track now. **44.Qc1 Be4 45.Qc8+ Qd7 46.Qc4+** [If 46.Qf8 I intended 46...Kd5 and the king also joins the attacking forces.] **46...Kf5! 47.Kh2** [47.Qc1 Qd3-+] **47...Kxf4 48.e6 Qd6 49.Qb3 Kf5+ 50.Kh1 Qd2** [50...Qxe6 is also winning, of course, but I thought my move would be quicker.] **51.Qg3 Qxg2+ 52.Qxg2 Bxg2+ 53.Kxg2 Kxe6 54.Kf3 Kf5 55.b5 g5 56.Kg3 h5 57.Kf3 Ke5 58.Kg3 Kd5 59.Kf3 g4+ 60.hxg4 hxg4+ 61.Kxg4 Kc4 62.Kf4 Kxb5 0-1**

## Round 4

Steadman v Johansen was a Bf4 Queens Gambit, a surprise for both of us. Two of the minor pieces got swapped off and the game petered out very early. Having lost our last eight games, I put a draw offer in and was happy for him to accept. Shen v Smith was one of Daniel's anti- Sicilian lines, he won a pawn but got his pieces tied up trying to make it work. He lost the pawn back when the heavy pieces came off and with only Queens and a Bishop and even pawns a draw was agreed. Watson v Goldenberg saw Bruce move away from his c4 to play e4 and face Igor's Caro Kann, Black's game was always solid and a draw was the final result. Illingworth v

Chan was a Slav and a quick draw, I think Max needed to stem the losses and just get on the board. Cheng v Krstev was the game of the round, Bobby took on Antonio's French and with the Advance, got a big bind on the Queenside, then proceeded to press forward on the Kingside with his pawns, a combination in the middle of the board netted a pawn and then a piece, Antonio fought on, but the damage was done. So Bobby was leading on 3.5, Goldenberg 3, Steadman and Johansen on 2.5, Chan, Watson, Smith and Shen on 2, Illingworth on .5 and Antonio on 0 – as we have seen in the past, there are no easy rounds.

### Cheng,Bobby (2323) - Krstev,Antonio (2150)

2011 George Trundle IM (4.1), 19.07.2011  
**1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 c5 4.b4 b6 5.c3 a5 6.b5 Bb7 7.d4 Nd7 8.Bd3 h6 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.0-0 0-0-0 11.Nfd2 c4 12.Bc2 Kb8 13.f4 g6 14.g4 h5 15.h3 Re8 16.Nf3 hxg4 17.hxg4 Ka7 18.Be3 Be7 19.Nbd2 Nh6 20.Nh2 Rh7 21.Bf2 Reh8 22.Bg3 Qd8 23.Ndf3 Qg8 24.Kg2 Qg7 25.Rh1 Bc8 26.a4 Nf8 27.Nd2 Bd7 (=) 28.Ndfl Kb7 29.Ne3 Be8 30.Qf3 Ka7 31.Nxd5! f5 32.Nc7 Kb8 33.Nxe8 Qf7 34.Qc6 Bd8 35.g5 Ng8 36.Nd6 Qc7 37.Qxc4 Qxc4 38.Nxc4 Ne7 39.Ne3 Nd7 40.Bb3 Nf8 41.c4 Ne8 42.Nf3 Rxh1 43.Rxh1 Rxh1 44.Kxh1 Kc7 45.d5 Kd7 46.Nd4 Be7 47.Nxe6 Nxe6 48.dxe6+ Ke8 49.Nd5 Bc5 50.Kg2 Ne7 51.Bf2** Black resigns. 1-0

Li v Gao was a Samisch Kings Indian that never got going. Only one file got opened and all the pieces came off, a draw was the result. Taylor v Tsoi was an English with Richard not quite playing it as well as

Russell Dive does, Nicole managed to secure the two Bishops and with a quick combination won a pawn, a second followed and when the heavy pieces were off, an easily won endgame. Goodhue v Davis was a b3, g3 special of Nathan's. Justin did not play the most aggressive line and a tame draw was agreed. Ansell v Stuart was an f3 Nimzo and although Peter got his pawn back Alan kept the 2 Bishops and played a Kingside attack. With his space advantage, he won an Exchange and ultimately the endgame. Tanoi v Bennett was another Modern where Edward had a great position, won a couple of pawns and was looking like winning, then Hilton played a combination, Edward reacted badly and Hilton won an Exchange for two pawns. Edward then played some weak moves and Hilton had a winning combination, missed it and went into the endgame a pawn up. Edward could have secured an easy draw and won his pawn back, missed this so suffered a pawn down endgame with a Knight versus a Bishop. Edward finally lost, a tragic result for him. So Ansell was leading with 4, Li 3.5, Davis 2.5, Bennett and Tsoi 2, Tanoi and Taylor 1.5, Stuart, Gao and Goodhue on 1.

## **Round 5**

Chan v Cheng was a Stonewall Dutch, Peng Kong's 2<sup>nd</sup> Dutch in this event. He was always in control in this game, gained a winning advantage but tried to cash in too quickly. Bobby managed to find a perpetual checking resource. Goldenberg v Shen was a Slav with Igor swapping into a slightly better endgame, but there wasn't enough in the position and Daniel achieved a draw.

Smith v Illingworth was a g3 Kings Indian Defence. Max won a pawn but there were opposite coloured Bishops on the board. Despite this, Max found a way to win his first game. Johansen v Watson was a Sicilian, a big positional struggle developed, Darryl won a pawn and was able to convert for the point. Krstev v Steadman was a Stonewall Dutch, Antonio seemed a bit confused, played an early c5 taking the pressure off the centre, this enabled me to play e5 and then push the Kingside pawns forward. A combination netted a Rook and two Bishops for the Queen and two pawns. Another error dropped an Exchange, the two Rooks and Bishop finally found their way through for a win. So after 5 rounds only Bobby Cheng 4 and Mike Steadman 3.5 were in with any norm chances.

### **Smith, Robert (2281) - Illingworth, Max (2389)**

2011 George Trundle IM (5.2), 20.07.2011  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.c4 Nc6 7.Nc3 Bf5 8.d5 Na5 9.Nd2 c6 10.h3 cxd5 11.cxd5 Rc8 12.Nb3 Rxc3 13.bxc3 Ne4 14.Bxe4 Bxe4 15.Be3 Bxc3 16.Bd4 Bxa1 17.Bxa1 Nxb3 18.axb3 Qb6 19.Qd2 Rc8 20.b4 f6 21.Bd4 Qb5 22.Qe3 Qxd5 23.f3 Bf5 24.g4 Bd7 25.Bxa7 e5 26.Rc1 Bc6 27.Kf2 Qe6 28.Qd3 Kg7 29.Be3 e4 30.Qd4 exf3 31.exf3 Re8 32.Rd1 Kf7 33.Qf4 g5 34.Qd4 h5 35.Re1 Qe5 36.Qxe5 dxe5 37.Rb1 Ke6 38.b5 Bd5 39.b6 h4 40.Rb2 Ra8 41.Rc2 Bc6 42.Rb2 Ra1 43.Rd2 Ra3 44.Re2 Rc3 45.Re1 e4 46.fxe4 Bxe4 47.Bxg5 Rf3+ 48.Kg1 Rg3+ 49.Kf2 fxg5 50.Rxe4+ Kf6 51.Re3 Rxe3 52.Kxe3 Ke5 53.Kf3 Kd4 54.Kf2 Kc5 55.Ke3 Kxb6 56.Ke4 Kc5 57.Kf5 b5 58.Kxg5 b4** White

resigns 0–1

Stuart v Goodhue was a 7 move draw – say no more. Tsoi v Tanoi was a Bishops opening where Edward played a g6 type defence, he got the e5 break in and was slightly better. Nicole defended well and managed to swap down to an even position, but a time trouble error lost a piece for 2 pawns, Edward then proceeded to wrap up the point. Davis v Li was a Benoni and Justin seemed to be making it up, his position became difficult and Luke duly won the game. Gao v Taylor was a Kings Indian attack against the Sicilian, Hans achieved the Nh5, f4, f5 break and finished Richard off nicely. Bennett v Ansell was an e5 Advanced Caro Kann, Hilton had an edge, but not enough to break down Alan's position, a draw was the result. Luke and Alan were on 4.5 and were well clear of the field, the last round encounter could be the deciding game.

**Gao,Hans (1917) - Taylor,Richard (1896)**

2011\_GTrundle\_Qualifier (5.4),

20.07.2011

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e6 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.0–0 Rb8 9.Nh4 0–0 10.f5 Nd4 11.Ne2 Bd7 12.c3 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 exf5 14.exf5 d5 15.Qf2 d4 16.Bf4 dxc3 17.bxc3 Ng4 18.Qe2 h5 19.fxg6 f5 20.h3 Re8 21.Qd2 Ne5 22.Bd5+ Be6 23.Bxe6+ Rxe6 24.Nxf5 Rxc6 25.Nxg7 Qd5 26.Nf5** Black resigns 1–0

## Round 6

Cheng v Steadman was an irregular Dutch, I didn't take the pawn Bobby offered, but I castled Queenside allowing him to attack

me. I felt that Black could take the material and survive. There was a line that would have forced Bobby to give perpetual check, but I saw a combination, unfortunately it had a hole and I lost. Chan v Smith was a b6 Benko, Peng Kong played too fancily and Bob did a long Knight tour that gave him the advantage and he won the b pawn and was in control. Just at the finish, Peng Kong set up one last trap, Bob moved too quickly and fell for a two move mate, a tragic loss. Watson v Krstev was an Exchange Slav where Antonio just made weakening moves for no apparent reason, by the time the Rook endgame arrived, he had too many pawn weaknesses and lost again. Illingworth v Goldenberg was a wild attacking Sicilian, Igor lost an Exchange, but he had a pawn and the resulting endgame was good enough to hold the draw. Shen v Johansen was Daniel's c4 Sicilian, Darryl got easy equality and started to press, Daniel's position couldn't hold and a combination finished him off.

**Cheng,Bobby (2323) - Steadman,Michael (2254)**

2011 George Trundle IM (6.1), 21.07.2011

**1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.h3!?** A sideline which leads to positions very different from Dutch main lines. **3...Nf6 4.g4 b6** [Accepting the pawn is very risky: 4...fxg4 5.hxg4 Nxg4 6.Qd3 Nf6 7.Ng5,] **5.Bf4 Bb7 6.Nbd2 g6 7.Rg1 d6 8.e3 Qe7 9.gxf5** [If 9.Bd3 first then 9...Nbd7 10.Bh2 gives black the option of (10.gxf5? e5) 10...e5] **9...gxf5 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.Bh2 Bh6 12.Qe2 0–0–0** [The natural 12...Ne4 is possible: 13.Bxe4 fxe4 14.Ng5 Bxc5 15.Qh5+ Qf7 16.Qxg5 h6 and my computer thinks it's equal,

which sounds about right.] **13.a4** I didn't think playing 'normal' moves such as 13.c4 would promise anything, so I started a somewhat risky attack instead. **13...a5 14.b4!?** **axb4 15.a5 Nd5** Black has many alternatives: [15...Rdg8; 15...Rhg8; 15...Kb8; 15...bxa5] **16.Ba6 Nb8 17.Bxb7+ Kxb7 18.axb6** [18.Nc4? b5] **18...cxb6** [18...Nxb6 19.Qb5] **19.Nc4 Nc3** [At the board, I could not find any satisfactory answer to 19...Bf8 , the main problem being the lack of constructive things to do.] **20.Qd3 b5?!** This is probably a mistake, allowing my pieces to get active. [20...f4 is an interesting option given by the computer, but it looks unnecessarily risky to me.; 20...Bf8 doesn't work now: 21.Nxd6+! Rxd6 22.Be5!+- (and yes, the computer found this); 20...Rhe8 or something similar, challenges me to do something. At the board, I could not find anything to do against a move like this. The b4 pawn and c3 knight hold up the q-side nicely, and the f3 knight, despite being on the so-called "best square", has no job.] **21.Na5+ Kb6** [21...Kc8 22.d5 is similar, yet different to the game. The question is whether the king is strong (protecting b5) or exposed on b6.] **22.d5? e5** [22...Nxd5? 23.Qd4+ Kc7 24.Qc5+!+-] **23.Nd4** The attack s very dangerous, but white is actually only slightly better here. **23...Qh4** [23...Qf6 looked good during the post-game analysis, but the computer points out the strong 24.Nc4+ Kb7 25.Nxb5 Nxb5 26.Qb3!+- with ideas of Qxb4, Qa4 and Ra5.(26.Na5+ Kb6 27.Nc4+ Kb7 28.Na5+ is only a draw) ; 23...Rhg8? 24.Rxg8 Rxg8 25.Nxf5 wins because 25...Q-anywhere defending h6 is met by 26.Nc4+!] **24.Nxb5?!** Tempting, but black can defend. [24.Nxf5 Qxh3 25.Bg3<sup>2</sup>; 24.Bg3 Qe4

25.Nxf5<sup>2</sup>] **24...Nxb5 25.Nc4+ Kb7** [25...Kc5? 26.Nb2! as pointed out by Mike, wins on the spot due to the threat of 27.Na4#; 25...Kc7 is possible, however 26.Ra5! (26.Nxe5 Na3!) 26...Nd7 27.Rxb5±] **26.Nxe5** [I didn't even look at 26.Qb3 , however 26...Bxe3! shows the advantage of having the queen on h4 as opposed to f6. 27.Nxe3 Qd4 with 28...Qc3+ to follow, eliminating the danger.; 26.Ra4 Na6; 26.Na5+ Kb6 27.Nc4+ Kb7 28.Na5+ is a draw.] **26...Nc7** [26...Na3 forces a draw: 27.Rxa3 (otherwise white is worse) 27...bxa3 28.Qb3+ Kc7 29.Qc3+ Kb7 30.Qb3+=] **27.Nf7 Bxe3??** The losing move. [27...Qf6 28.Nxd8+ Rxd8 is unbalanced, but quite equal.] **28.Qxe3 Rhe8 29.Ra7+ Kc8 30.Nxd6+** Black resigns. **1-0**

Stuart v Bennett was a Kings Indian Defence, another quick draw for Peter. Ansell v Tsoi was a Classical Dutch, Nicole was not aware of the latest theory and Alan grabbed a pawn and slowly converted. Tanoi v Gao was an Alekines Defence, Edward tried to sacrifice a pawn for activity, but Hans just gave it back and all was swapped off into a tame draw. Taylor v Davis was a Grunfeld, Justin did not know the theory and went pawn grabbing, Richard knew that he needed activity and got active. A quick combination won the Queen for a Rook and Knight for a nice win. Goodhue v Li was a b3 system again, a big manoeuvring game occurred but Luke crashed through in the end.

**Taylor,Richard (1896) - Davis,Justin (1989)**

2011\_GTrundle\_Qualifier (6.2),  
21.07.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 c6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Nf3 Na6 7.b3 Ne4 8.Bb2 Qa5 9.Rc1 Nb4 10.0-0 Nxa2 11.Nxa2 Qxa2 12.Qc2 Qa5 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.Ne5 0-0 15.Ra1 Qb6 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.d5 e3 18.Nc4 exf2+ 19.Rxf2 Qc5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qc3+ Kg8 22.b4 Qc7 23.Raf1 b5? 24.Rxf7! Rxf7 25.Rxf7 Kxf7 26.Ne5+ Qxe5 27.Qxe5 Bh3 28.d6 exd6 29.Qd5+ Black resigns. 1-0

## Round 7

Stedman v Watson was a Sicilian where I tried to keep a bind with e4 and c4. The opportunity arrived and Bruce got b5 in safely, all the pieces got swapped off, a few accurate moves by both sides ensured the Rook endgame was drawn. Krstev v Shen was a Slav, instead of trying to secure his first half point, Antonio charged through the centre and castled on the opposite wing to try and attack Daniel. Daniel's attack was first and he won an Exchange and soon after the game. Smith v Cheng was a Winawer b6 French, Bob tried to attack, sacrificed a pawn for a last attempt to win, then a Rook and Bishop, but Bobby only took the Rook, then sacrificed it back to ensure a perpetual check. Goldenberg v Chan was a Queens Gambit declined, Peng Kong had a solid position, but a couple of bad moves allowed Igor to get an initiative and then broke through, a mistake at the end allowed Igor to finish the game quickly. Johansen v Illingworth was a Kings Indian Defence, Darryl had a space advantage but it wasn't easy for him to break through, a faulty combination allowed Max to bounce out and then he won a pawn, an opposite coloured Bishop

plus rooks ensued, Darryl swapped off the Rooks while losing his rook pawn, but the two pawns and opposite Bishops was a theoretical draw.

**Goldenberg, Igor- Chan, Peng Kong**  
2011 George Trundle IM  
22.07.11 7.2

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4 Nbd7 5.Bg5 Bb4 6.e3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Be2 [After the game I was told that the main line is 8.Bd3 Qa5 9.Qc2 c4 10.Bf5] 8...Qa5 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 c4 [after 10...Qxc3 black wins a pawn, but white gets a compensation, for example 11.Rc1 Qa3 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.Rxc5 Qxa2 14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.Bxd7+ Nxd7 16.Rc7] 11.Qc2 Ne4 12.Rac1 Ndf6 13.Bf4 The question "who benefits from swapping black knight for white dark coloured bishop" was left unanswered. White would probably maintain a small plus, but the position would be somewhat simplified 13...0-0 14.Ne5 Re8 15.f3 Nd6 16.h3 Ideally white should aim for king side attack or advance in the centre (or both). The aim of the text move is to open h-file by swapping on g4. It also discourages black from playing Bf5 [16.e4 could be met by 16...Nh5 17.Bd2 f6 18.Ng4 dxe4 with unclear consequences] 16...b5 stops the threat of e4, but [16...Qa3 which my opponent offered during the post mortem, would be better, as it stops possible counterplay on queen side 17.e4 is met by 17...b5] 17.Ng4 Nxg4 18.hxg4 Qb6 Now white has a stable advantage, as black queenside play is neutered [18...Qa3!] 19.a4 Bd7 20.Rb1 a6 21.Kf2 Qc6 22.Rh1 g6? [22...h6 and it not easy for white to proceed.] 23.Rh6 f5 No need to panic. After [23...Re7 24.Rbh1 f6 black can still

hold] **24.Rbh1 Nf7 25.Rxh7 bxa4** watch this pawn, it might save black in the end! **26.Qd2** trying to get to the king through h6 square **26...a3 27.gxf5 Bxf5 28.e4 dxe4 29.Be5 Rab8?** [according to Rybka 29...Rxe5 30.dxe5 exf3 makes white's job much harder] **30.Rg7+ Kf8 31.Rhh7** At that point I thought the game is finished, but Chan found an excellent chance. **31...e3+ 32.Qxe3 Nxe5 33.dxe5?** [Initially I planned 33.Qh6 but it even loses to 33...Ng4+ 34.fxg4 Rxe2+ It wouldn't be possible without e3. However, I didn't see; 33.Ra7! with double threat of Rh8 and Qh6. For example 33...Nd3+ 34.Bxd3 Rb2+ 35.Kg1] **33...Qb6** In the endgame black should escape thanks to a3 pawn, but fortunately my mistake was not the last in the game. **34.Rf7+ Kg8 35.Rfg7+ Kf8 36.Qxb6 Rxb6 37.Rf7+ Kg8 38.Rfg7+ Kf8** Numerous checks to win soome time and get closer to magic number 40 that adds another half an hour on the clock. **39.Rc7 Kg8 40.Rhg7+ Kh8 41.Rh7+ Kg8 42.Bxc4+ Be6 43.Rhg7+ Kh8 44.Rxg6** last chance **44...Bxc4?** which worked! [44...a2 45.Bxa2 Rb2+ 46.Ke3 Bxa2 47.f4 leads to a position where white has practical chances, but black should be able to draw] **45.Rxb6 a2 46.Rh6+ Kg8 47.Rh1 Bd3 48.Ra1 Bb1 49.Rc5 Kf7 50.Ra5** Black resigns. 1-0

**Smith,Robert (2281) - Cheng,Bobby (2323)**

2011 George Trundle IM (7.1), 22.07.2011  
**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5.Bd2 Ne7 6.Nf3 Ba6 7.Bxa6 Nxa6 8.Qe2 Nb8 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Qd7 11.a4 a5 12.0-0 0-0 13.b3 Rc8 14.Bb2 c5 15.c4 (=) 15...Na6 16.Rac1 Qb7 17.Rfd1 Rc7 18.Ng5 h6 19.cxd5 Nxd5 20.Ne4 Rc6**

**21.Nd6 Qd7 22.Qg4 Nab4 23.dxc5 Rxc5 24.Ne4 Rxc1 25.Bxc1 Kf8 26.Ba3 Qc7 27.Nd6 Kg8 28.Rc1 Qd7 29.Qf3 Rf8 30.Ne4 Rc8 31.Rd1 Rc2 32.Qg4 Kf8 33.h4 Qc7 34.Nd6 Kg8 35.Nc4 Rc3 36.Bc1 Kf8 37.Qh5 Rxb3 38.Nd6 Rb1 39.Kh2 Kg8 40.Bxh6 Rxd1 41.Bxg7 Rh1+ 42.Kxh1 Qc1+ 43.Kh2 Qf4+ 44.g3 Qxf2+ 45.Kh1** Draw agreed. ½-½

**Krstev,Antonio (2150) - Shen,Daniel (2165)**

2011 George Trundle IM (7.4), 22.07.2011  
**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 Nd7 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 g6 10.e4 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Nxe5 Qxe5 13.Qb3 Qe7 14.0-0-0 Bg7 15.f4 (=) 15...0-0 16.e5 b5 17.Bd3 Be6 18.Qc2 Rfb8 19.Kb1 b4 20.Ne4 Bxa2+ 21.Kc1 Bd5 22.h4 a5 23.g4 a4 24.h5 g5 25.fxg5 hxg5 26.Nf6+ Bxf6 27.exf6 Qe3+ 28.Kb1 Bxh1 29.Rxh1 b3 30.Qc4 Re8 31.Rc1 Qe6 32.Qc3 a3 33.Bf5 Qe5 34.bxa3 b2 35.Kxb2 Rab8+ 36.Ka1 Qe2 37.Rc2 Qf1+ 38.Rc1 Qf2 39.Bc2 Re3 40.Qc5 Qxf6+** White resigns. 0-1

Bennett v Goodhue was Nathan's typical b6 and g6 Hippo, Hilton did not seem to handle the position well, sacrificed a piece, but did not have enough play, and lost easily. Li v Taylor was the Bb5+ line of the Benoni, Richard blocked with the Kingside Knight and the e pawn crashed through to e6, Richard did not know the theory and got a Rook for 2 pieces, but he swapped off to a position of Queen and 3 pawns versus Rook, Bishop and Knight, his King was weak and some manoeuvring but Luke got a mating net set up and he collected another point. Gao v Ansell was a Panov Botvinnik Caro Kann, Alan outplayed Hans, won a

pawn and then a piece to keep the race with Luke alive. Tsoi v Stuart was a Sicilian, doubled c pawns were not enough for Peter to find a way through and a draw resulted. Davis v Tanoi was Benoni which again went badly for Justin, Edward was cruising and then made a mistake, Justin was an Exchange ahead and just needed to find the winning plan, however blundered his King into a fork and lost the Exchange, there was no way back and he lost.

### Gao,Hans - Ansell,Alan

George Trundle Qualifier 2011 Auckland  
(7.1), 22.07.2011

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Bb4 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 a6 9.0-0 b5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Qe2 Bb7** As usual in the Caro-Kann exchange variation, an isolated queen's pawn position has arisen - black will aim to target the isolated pawn while white will aim to create play with the extra space it provides him. **12.a4** Though this is a natural enough looking move and has been played a few times before, somehow it doesn't look right to me having a rook or a knight hanging out on a4. **12...bxa4 13.Rxa4 a5 14.Bg5 h6 15.Bh4 Nbd7 16.Raa1 Qb6 17.Rad1 Rac8** Black's position is comfortable, and he may even have an edge already. **18.Ne5** !? White decides to sac a pawn for some play. I don't know if there's anything better, as it is hard to see what white can do otherwise. **18...Bxc3 19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Nc4** White's idea: he hopes to trap the c3 rook and win the exchange. **20...Qc6 21.f3 Ra8 22.Be1** An important moment. Black cannot move the rook to b3 because he loses the a5 pawn. I looked at **22...Rxd3 23. Rxd3 Ba6** for a while, but concluded that white has good drawing chances after **24. Nxa5.**

**22...Nd5** ! Black meets the threat by defending the rook with a knight which will arrive on c3 with a fork regaining the exchange. **23.Bxc3** White is not tempted by **23. Qb2? Rxd3 24. Rxd3 Qxc4 25. Qxb7 Rb8!**, and white's queen has no way of getting back to defend the d3 rook. **23...Nxc3 24.Qd2 Nxd1 25.Nxa5** ?! White is not savouring the task of playing the rest of the game a pawn down, and enters into some tactics, trying to win back black's dangerous looking past a-pawn. **25...Qd5** ! Much better than **25...Rxa5 26. Qxa5**, after which theoretically black should have a winning material advantage, but in practice stands only slightly better on account of his vulnerable knight on d1 and his back rank difficulties. **26.Nxb7 Qxd4+** ! **27.Kh1** It seems as if black has walked his queen into a discovery, but... **27...Nf2+** !! This allows black to trade his trapped knight on d1 with white's strong bishop on d3. Black emerges with his extra pawn, and white winds up with a trapped knight of his own on b7. **28.Qxf2 28. Rxf2** loses the queen to **28...Rxa1+ 28...Qxd3 29.Rc1 Qd5 30.Rb1** The only way of saving the knight: **30. Qb2 Rb8 31. Rb1 Nc5** and the knight falls. **30...Ra2 31.Qf1 Ra7 32.Qc1** ! White find a clever resource (the check on c8) to hang onto the knight. **32...Kh7 33.Nd8 Ne5** Black attacks the knight again with extra threats of Nd3 and Nxd3. **34.Qc2+ f5 35.Rd1 Nd3** ! I thought that Nf2+ was so good, I wanted to do it again! White can't take the knight because of back rank mate. **36.Kg1** The only way to stop Nf2+. **36...Qd4+ 37.Kf1 Ra1 38.Rxa1** White must take or else get mated on f2. **38...Qxa1+ 39.Ke2 Nf4+** No matter where white puts his king, black forks it and the d8 knight. **40.Ke3 Qe5+ 41.Kf2 Qd4+** The

knight finally falls. 0-1

## Round 8

Chen v Steadman was a French Defence, another of Daniel's pet lines. I wanted to try a line, it didn't work out well and I was very passive. Daniel had a great position and just needed to sit and squeeze me, but he rushed it and Black managed to swap off the pieces and get a draw. Cheng v Watson was a quick 9 move draw, Bobby was closing in on his IM norm, just a draw in the last would give him his 6.5 points. Illingworth v Krstev was a slow Slav where Max had some pressure, it petered out and by the finish Antonio was slightly better, but not having any points encouraged Antonio to agree a draw and get his first half point. Chan v Johansen was a delayed Benoni and agreed drawn on move 10, the top places are being ensured now. Smith v Goldenberg was the game of the round, Bob played a main line Sicilian and threw caution to the wind and attacked. He forced an endgame where he was much better and finally ground out a win, he did miss a big combination which would have ended the game 30 moves earlier, but he held it together to give Igor his 1<sup>st</sup> loss and seriously dent his winning chances. So with 1 round to go, scores were: Cheng 6, Johansen 5.5, Goldenberg 5, Steadman 4.5, Watson, Chan and Shen 4, Smith 3.5, Illingworth 3, Krstev .5

**Cheng, Bobby (2323) - Steadman, Michael (2254)**

2011 George Trundle IM (6.1), 21.07.2011

**1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.h3!?** A sideline which leads to positions very different from Dutch main lines. **3...Nf6 4.g4 b6** [Accepting the pawn is very risky: 4...fxg4 5.hxg4 Nxg4 6.Qd3 Nf6 7.Ng5,] **5.Bf4 Bb7 6.Nbd2 g6 7.Rg1 d6 8.e3 Qe7 9.gxf5** [If 9.Bd3 first then 9...Nbd7 10.Bh2 gives black the option of (10.gxf5? e5) 10...e5] **9...gxf5 10.Bd3 Nbd7 11.Bh2 Bh6 12.Qe2 0-0-0** [The natural 12...Ne4 is possible: 13.Bxe4 fxe4 14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Qh5+ Qf7 16.Qxg5 h6 and my computer thinks it's equal, which sounds about right.] **13.a4** I didn't think playing 'normal' moves such as 13.c4 would promise anything, so I started a somewhat risky attack instead. **13...a5 14.b4!?** **axb4 15.a5 Nd5** Black has many alternatives: [15...Rdg8; 15...Rhg8; 15...Kb8; 15...bxa5] **16.Ba6 Nb8 17.Bxb7+ Kxb7 18.axb6** [18.Nc4? b5μ] **18...cxb6** [18...Nxb6 19.Qb5] **19.Nc4 Nc3** [At the board, I could not find any satisfactory answer to 19...Bf8, the main problem being the lack on constructive things to do.] **20.Qd3 b5?!** This is probably a mistake, allowing my pieces to get active. [20...f4 is an interesting option given by the computer, but it looks unnecessarily risky to me.; 20...Bf8 doesn't work now: 21.Nxd6+! Rxd6 22.Be5!+- (and yes, the computer found this); 20...Rhe8 or something similar, challenges me to do something. At the board, I could not find anything to do against a move like this. The b4 pawn and c3 knight hold up the q-side nicely, and the f3 knight, despite being on the so-called "best square", has no job.] **21.Na5+ Kb6** [21...Kc8 22.d5 is similar, yet different to the game. The question is whether the king is strong (protecting b5) or exposed on b6.] **22.d5<sup>2</sup> e5** [22...Nxd5? 23.Qd4+ Kc7 24.Qc5+!+-] **23.Nd4** The

attack s very dangerous, but white is actually only slightly better here. **23...Qh4** [23...Qf6 looked good during the post-game analysis, but the computer points out the strong 24.Nc4+ Kb7 25.Nxb5 Nxb5 26.Qb3!+- with ideas of Qxb4, Qa4 and Ra5.(26.Na5+ Kb6 27.Nc4+ Kb7 28.Na5+ is only a draw) ; 23...Rhg8? 24.Rxg8 Rxg8 25.Nxf5 wins because 25...Q-anywhere defending h6 is met by 26.Nc4+!]

**24.Nxb5?!** Tempting, but black can defend. [24.Nxf5 Qxh3 25.Bg3?; 24.Bg3 Qe4 25.Nxf5?] **24...Nxb5 25.Nc4+ Kb7** [25...Kc5? 26.Nb2! as pointed out by Mike, wins on the spot due to the threat of 27.Na4#; 25...Kc7 is possible, however 26.Ra5! (26.Nxe5 Na3!) 26...Nd7 27.Rxb5±] **26.Nxe5** [I didn't even look at 26.Qb3 , however 26...Bxe3! shows the advantage of having the queen on h4 as opposed to f6. 27.Nxe3 Qd4 with 28...Qc3+ to follow, eliminating the danger.; 26.Ra4 Na6; 26.Na5+ Kb6 27.Nc4+ Kb7 28.Na5+ is a draw.] **26...Nc7** [26...Na3 forces a draw: 27.Rxa3 (otherwise white is worse) 27...bxa3 28.Qb3+ Kc7 29.Qc3+ Kb7 30.Qb3+=]

**27.Nf7 Bxe3??** The losing move. [27...Qf6 28.Nxd8+ Rxd8 is unbalanced, but quite equal.] **28.Qxe3 Rhe8 29.Ra7+ Kc8 30.Nxd6+** Black resigns. 1-0

Ansell v Davis was a Kings Indian Defence, Alan tried a slightly offbeat line and didn't castle but sent his Kingside pawns forward. He miscalculated and Justin played a sacrificial attack and stopped Alan's run – a beautiful win by Justin. Bennett v Tsoi was a Qe2 versus the French Defence, Hilton got a space advantage, won a pawn, then turned this into an Exchange and duly won the game.

Stuart v Gao was a Kings Indian Defence, Peter played a c4, d3, e4 system and the game never really got going, a draw was agreed. Tanoi v Li was a Winawer French Defence with an early Nc6 by Luke. Edward had the better position, but as is his way he sacrificed needlessly and Luke collected an easy win. Goodhue v Taylor was Nathan getting his Hippo opening all wrong again, Richard's Knights streamed into the position and killed off Nathan nicely.

**Ansell,Alan (2069) - Davis,Justin (1982)**  
2011\_GTrundle Qualifier (8.3), 23.07.2011

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 a5 8.g4 Na6 9.g5 Nd7 10.h4 f5 11.gxf6 Bxf6 12.Nf3 Ndc5 13.Ng5 h6 14.Nf3 Bg7 15.Rg1 Kh7 16.Qd2 Nb4 17.h5 g5 18.Bxc5 dxc5 19.a3 g4 20.Nh2 Qh4 21.Nxg4 Bxg4 22.Bxg4 Rxf2 23.axb4 Rg2+ 24.Kd1 Qxg4+** White resigns. 0-1

**Goodhue,Nathan (1982) - Taylor,Richard (1896)**

2011 GTrundle\_Qualifier (8.1), 23.07.2011  
**1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Be6 5.d3 f5 6.Nd2 Nf6 7.a3 Bc5 8.e3 f4 9.Nf1 Qe7 10.b4 Bb6 11.b5 fxe3 12.fxe3 Na5 13.h3 0-0 14.Nf3 e4 15.Ne5 exd3 16.Nxd3 Nc4 17.Bc1 Ne4 18.Nf4 Rxf4 19.exf4 Nc3 20.Qd2 Nxd2 21.Kxd2 Ne4+ 22.Bxe4 Ba5+ 23.Ke2 dxe4 24.Ne3 Rd8 25.c4 Rd3 26.Rb1 Qd7 27.Rb2 Bb6 28.Re1 Bxh3 29.g4 Bxg4+ 30.Kf2 Qd6 31.Kg3 g5 32.Rf2 h5 33.Kh2 gxf4 34.Nxg4 f3+ 35.Kh3 hxg4+ 36.Kxg4 Bxf2 37.Rh1 Qg6+ 38.Bg5 Be3 39.Rh5 Qe6+ 40.Kh4 Bf2# 0-1**

## Round 9

Steadman v Illingworth was a quick 9 move draw in a Kings Indian Defence. Johansen v Smith was a 15 move draw in the Kings Indian Defence. Goldenberg v Cheng was a Stonewall Dutch against the English, Bobby achieved easy equality and once he achieved e5, Igor swapped off some pawns and Bobby accepted the draw offer for his 1<sup>st</sup> IM norm. Krstev v Chan was an f3 Nimzo, Peng Kong won a pawn, but Antonio got active, Peng Kong sacrificed the pawn back to get his pieces out and the game petered out to a draw. Watson v Shen was a Catalan where Daniel won a pawn, but the endgame saw Bruce very active, and once Daniel let Bruce connect his 2 Rooks on the 7<sup>th</sup> rank, it was only a matter of time, Bruce won a good game.

### Final Standings

Cheng	6.5
Johansen	6
Goldenberg	5.5
Steadman and Watson	5
Chan	4.5
Shen and Smith	4
Illingworth	3.5
Krstev	1

### Watson, Bruce (2276) - Shen, Daniel (2165)

2011 George Trundle IM (9.5), 24.07.2011

1.c4 e6 An attempt to avoid a line which I have troubles with... [1...Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.e5 d4 5.exf6 dxc3 6.bxc3 Qxf6] **2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 Bd6** [4...Be7 Probably

better as it doesnt get in the way of the queen and e4 isnt much of a threat. Also on d6 the bishop doesn't do much.] **5.0-0 0-0 6.d3 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e4?! looks very threatening but didnt turn out as well. Also Houdini finds it wrong 8...Nbd7 9.Nc3 Bb7 10.Nd4 dxe4 11.dxe4 Nc5 12.Bg5** [12.Re1 computer's suggestion... 12...Be5 13.Be3 Nfxe4 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 15.Qc2 Bxd4 16.Bxd4 Qxd4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4 18.Rxe4 White's activity compensates for the pawn e.g. 18...Qd6 19.Rd1 Qg6 20.Rd7] **12...Be5 13.Ndb5 Qxd1 14.Raxd1 Bxc3?** This follow up from the combination loses Black's advantage and the game becomes equal [14...Nfxe4<sup>3</sup> 15.Be7 Rfe8 16.Bxc5 Nxc5 17.Bxb7 Nxb7 18.Rd7 Rad8 19.Rxd8 (19.Rfd1 Rxd7 20.Rxd7 Nc5 21.Nxc7 Nxd7 22.Nxe8 Kf8-+) 19...Rxd8 20.Nxa7 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Just a little structural annoyance for white but is still pretty equal. Black can't go for the a pawn 21...Ra8 22.Nb5 c6 23.Nc7 Rxa2 24.Rb1 b5 25.c4=] **15.Nxc3 Nfxe4 16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Be7 Rfe8 (=)** [17...Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Rfb8!/? Gives black an extra tempo after Bxc5 compared to the game] **18.Bxc5 bxc5 19.Rd7 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Re2?** Turns out to be a flawed plan. I was too optimistic about black's activity on the 2nd rank compared to white's activity on the 7th rank **21.Rfd1 g6 22.Rxc7 Rb8** [22...Rxb2 23.Rdd7 Rf8 24.Rxa7 Rbb8 25.a4 c4 26.Rdc7 Rbc8 27.Kf3 Black's c pawn will fall and White's king will be very active] **23.Rdd7 Rbxb2 24.Rxf7<sup>2</sup> Rxa2 25.h4** reduces the danger of rxf2+ and allows the king in to the black kingside **25...c4** [25...h5 26.Rf6 Rec2 27.Rxg6+ Kf8 28.Rf6+ Kg8 29.g4 hxg4 30.h5+; 25...h6 26.Rf6 g5 27.h5 The two rooks are too strong dominating the black king] **26.Rg7+ Kf8 27.Rcf7+ Ke8**

**28.Rxh7** The rest of the moves we made under time pressure by both players but from here on white's mate threats remove black's counterplay **28...Rad2 29.Rxa7 Rxf2+ 30.Kh3 Rd8 31.Ra6 Rc8 32.Rxg6 Rf8 33.Rgg7 Rc6 34.Ra7 Kd8 35.Ra8+ Rc8 36.Raa7 Rc6 37.Ra8+ Rc8 38.Rxc8+ Kxc8 39.Ra7 Rf3 40.Kg4 Rd3 41.Ra4 c3 42.h5 Kb7 43.Rc4 Kb6 44.h6 Kb5 45.Rc8 Rd4+ 46.Kh3 Rd6 47.Rxc3 Rxh6+ 48.Kg2 Kb4 49.Rc8 Rg6 50.Kf3 Rf6+ 51.Ke4 Rg6 52.Kf4 Rf6+ 53.Kg5 Rf1 54.g4 Kb5 55.Kg6 Rg1 56.g5 Kb6 57.Rc2 Kb7 58.Kf6 Rf1+ 59.Kg7 Rg1 60.g6 Kb8 61.Kf7 Rf1+ 62.Kg8 Rg1 63.g7** Black resigns. 1–0

Li v Ansell was an f3 Nimzo, Alan was in a must win situation and tried too hard, Luke crashed through and won a nice game. Gao v Davis was a Scandinavian that Hans was not really aware of, Justin sacrificed a piece and Hans missed the defensive resource and Justin broke through. Stuart v Tanoi was an English Defence against Peter's c4, Edward turned down a draw offer and then a few moves later lost a pawn, shortly after a piece and then the game. Tsoi v Goodhue was a Closed Sicilian, Nathan pressed on the Queenside and then pressed on the Kingside, Nicole ran out of space and had to sacrifice a piece to survive, but it was short lived and she resigned soon after. Bennett v Taylor was a Bb5 Closed Sicilian, a big manoeuvring game was played, Richard tried to sacrifice a piece in the endgame to get a past pawn on c2, but Hilton could defend, the game was finally drawn.

## *Final Standings Qualifier*

Li	8.5
Ansell	6.5
Davis and Bennett	4.5
Taylor, Stuart and Tanoi	4
Goodhue	3.5
Gao	3
Tsoi	2.5

### **Li,Luke (2056) - Ansell,Alan (2063)**

2011\_GTrundle\_Qualifier (9.4), 24.07.2011  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 Qc7 9.Ra2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bf5 11.Ne2 Nbd7 12.Nf4 Rc8 13.Bd2 0–0 14.g4 Bc2 15.Qc1 g5 16.Nd3 Rfe8 17.Kf2 Bb3 18.Rb2 Bc4 19.Qb1 b5 20.h4 h6 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.Nb4 Nf8 23.Qf5 N6h7 24.Nxd5 Qd6 25.Bxc4 Rxc4 26.Bb4 Qe6 27.Bxf8 Qxf5 28.gxf5 Rxf8 29.f6 Rb8 30.Ne7+ Kh8 31.Kg3** Black resigns. 1–0

### **Stuart,Peter (2005) - Tanoi,Edward (2031)**

2011\_GTrundle\_Qualifier (9.2), 24.07.2011  
**1.c4 b6 2.b3 Bb7 3.Bb2 e6 4.e3 f5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0–0 0–0 8.d4 d6 9.Ng5 Qd7 10.f4 Na6 11.Nh3 Rad8 12.Nc3 c5 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.Nf2 Qe8 15.Bf3 d5 16.cxd5 exd5 17.Qc2 Nfe4 18.Ncxe4 fxe4 19.Be2 Rc8 20.Qd2 (=) 20...Bf6 21.Rac1 h5 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.b4 Ne6 24.Rxc8 Qxc8 25.Bxh5 Qd8 26.Rc1 Qe7 27.Bd1 d4 28.Bb3 d3 29.f5 Kh8 30.Bxe6 Rd8 31.Rc4 Kg7 32.b5 a6 33.Qc3 Kh6 34.Rc7 Qf8 35.Rf7** Black resigns. 1–0

### **Tsoi,Nicole (1716) - Goodhue,Nicole (1982)**

2011\_GTrundle\_Qualifier (9.1),

24.07.2011

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.d3 e6 4.g3 d5 5.Bg2 d4 6.Nce2 e5 7.f4 f6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 Be6 10.Rf2 g5 11.fxe5 fxe5 12.Qd2 h6 13.b3 g4 14.Ne1 b5 15.c3 b4 16.c4 a5 17.Qb2 h5 18.Nc2 Nh6 19.Bd2 Nf7 20.Raf1 Ng5 21.Bc1 (=) 21...Kd7 22.Kh1 Qg8 23.Ne1 Qg6 24.Qd2 Rh7 25.Qc2 Rah8 26.Bxg5 Bxg5 27.Rf8 Qg7 28.Rxh8 Rxh8 29.Kg1 Be3+ 30.Kh1 Qh6 31.Nf3 gxf3 32.Bxf3 Rf8 33.Ng1 h4 34.gxh4 Bxg1 35.Kxg1 Qe3+ 36.Qf2 Rxf3** White resigns. 0-1

So the tournament was over for another year, a success again. We have run the event for 6 years now and have had 3 IM norms awarded in these 6 years, so not bad.

All the visitors had a great time, and Bobby was happy with his tournament, getting a norm and winning the event. Igor was in control until his loss to Smith took him out of the first place hunt. Darryl played strong sound chess and never looked threatened, he took 2<sup>nd</sup> easily. Watson had a great win to get to 4<sup>th</sup> = and share the trophy. I had a soft draw in the last to ensure I was equal with him. Smith had a slow start but finished strongly against the big guns. Peng Kong was rusty early, had some luck against Smith, but started to play stronger towards the end of the event. Daniel had a strong tournament, always hard to beat, was unlucky to lose the last round and miss out on 4<sup>th</sup> equal. Max had a very slow start, moving into private accommodation seemed to improve his chess, but the damage had been done. Antonio had the first year blues, this event always proves very tough on the Kiwis in their first year, but he did us a big favour by playing and ensure we had the rating level to get IM

norm qualification.

The Qualifiers was a two horse race, Luke and Alan were neck and neck right through to the finish. Alan's unfortunate loss to Justin in the 8<sup>th</sup> round meant he had to go crazy in the last round with the Black pieces to try and beat Luke, it was not to be. Hopefully Alan keeps improving and gets his rating high enough to get invited into the IM event next year. Luke had a great event, he never really looked in danger and easily won, assuming his rating gets high enough, he will be in the IM field next year. Justin had 4 giant wins and 4 tragic losses. He had a great start, bad middle and a good finish, not bad for his first year. Hilton was steady as usual, couple of losses and some wins and many draws. The rest were too inconsistent to threaten the two young guns. Nicole Tsoi had a good event, she only scored 2.5, but she had been away from chess for 6 months and was never crushed, time trouble was always a demon for her.

Keong Ang our Arbiter did a sterling job keeping the electronic boards working. Ewen Green with help from Ian McNally ensured that all the games were in pgn and made available to all the players each night.

# Queenstown Chess Classic

15th–23rd January 2012

Incorporating the official

**119th New Zealand National Championships**

Venue: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown

Timetable: 1 game per day (all rounds start at 3 pm)

## TOTAL PRIZEFUND \$30,000

1st: \$7,000	6th: \$1,400	11th: \$750
2nd: \$5,000	7th: \$1,300	12th: \$700
3rd: \$3,000	8th: \$1,200	13th: \$600
4th: \$2,000	9th: \$1,100	14th: \$550
5th: \$1,500	10th: \$1000	15th: \$500

There will also be grading prizes, senior and junior prizes, and a daily book prize donated by Gambit Publications Ltd.

The highest-placed eligible New Zealand player(s) will become the official **2012 NEW ZEALAND CLOSED CHESS CHAMPION(S)** and will have their name(s) recorded on the coveted Silver Rook trophy. An outright winner will qualify automatically for the **2012 New Zealand Olympiad Team**.

The highest-placed eligible New Zealand player(s) rated under 2000 NZCF will become the official **NEW ZEALAND MAJOR OPEN CHAMPION(S)**.

The highest-placed eligible New Zealand woman player will qualify automatically for the **2012 New Zealand Women's Olympiad Team** subject to winning outright (no ties).

[www.queenstownchess.com](http://www.queenstownchess.com)  
[www.newzealandchess.co.nz](http://www.newzealandchess.co.nz)

## Luke Li takes 2011 NZ Junior

**L**uke Li completely dominated the NZ Junior Championship held in July at Howick to win convincingly with 7/7. Luke was the favourite outrating the field by a hundred points. On the way he defeated second place getter William Li who finished on 6/7, and the second seed Hans Gao, who would have been disappointed with his 4.5, after losing to both Luke and William.

Jaipend Li becomes NZ School Girls champion and NZ under 14 Girls Champion after scoring 4.5 and placing 11<sup>th</sup> overall.

### **Other age group results**

Kong-Lim, Qi Le: NZ under-12 Champion  
Chen, Catherin: NZ under-12 Girls Champion

Zhang, William J W: NZ under-10 Champion

Geng, Karen (Jing Yi): NZ under-10 Girls Champion

Fan, Allen: NZ under-8 Champion

## **NZ Junior Rapid Championship**

1<sup>st</sup> William Zhang 6/6

2<sup>nd</sup> Leo Zhang 5/6

3<sup>rd</sup> Jack James 5/6

## Genesis Potini

Genesis Potini, founder of the Eastern Knights Chess club in Gisborne, has died aged 46. Genesis was much loved in the chess community and admired for his work promoting the virtues of chess to young people on the east coast.

This tribute from Tony Dowden was posted on the [amemorytree.co.nz](http://amemorytree.co.nz) website.

“I first met Genesis at a chess event when we was 13 or 14 years old, gangly and irrepressibly enthusiastic. I was 18 or 19 then and helped him analyse a game. He hung on every word and I was impressed by his determination to understand and charmed by his natural warmth which was unusual in a youngster. About ten years later I was in Gisborne for a few weeks (perhaps around about the time he founded the 'Gisborne Knights' chess club but maybe earlier) and Genesis treated me like visiting royalty! He was no longer gangly but still that same wonderful warmth. We met again about abother 15 years on in a chess event in Hawkes Bay - and I was greeted as a long lost friend, I've since come to recognise and appreciate the gift of 'aroha' from many people in the land of Aotearoa New Zealand (something I miss keenly here across the Tasman) but I believe it is true to say Genesis introduced me aroha first. Love to family/whanau. RIP Genesis.” Tony Dowden

# The North Shore Open 2011

By Peter Stuart

The 37th North Shore Open was played over the weekend of 27/28 August with a slightly smaller entry than in the last few years. Maybe nothing to worry about yet, but the decline is mirrored elsewhere and has happened over several years. The tournament was well supported by Pub Charity, not for the first time, helping to ensure the tournament's financial viability.

The changes to the rating system and the consequent significant changes in many players' ratings, together with changes to the Grand Prix categories are probably the main influence. The A-grade sections were markedly bigger in many events last year and the lower grades smaller since ratings went up. This year the lower limit for the A-grade was increased to 1800 (from 1700) to fit with the new Grand Prix categories, so entries in the top group went down again. Also the Junior event entries were down since the Grand Prix Under 14/under 1400 category became Under 12/Under 1200.

The Open produced a new winner, as well as an old one, but let's first follow some of the action. IM Paul Garbett was the top seed while Gino Thornton announced (to me, before the tournament) that he would score 4½ points, presumably making him at least a joint winner! Antonio Krstev and Luke Li were likely to have something to

say about this if they could while Ivan Dordevic, John Duneas, Jeremy Browne and Hans Gao were also likely contenders.

With comparatively small rating differences, upsets are always likely and they started right away. Perhaps Roger Perry beating a 2200+ isn't such a big surprise but it wasn't the start that Antonio would've wanted.

**Perry, Roger L (2017) - Krstev, Antonio (2237)**

North Shore Open-A 37th Auckland (1.2), 27.08.2011

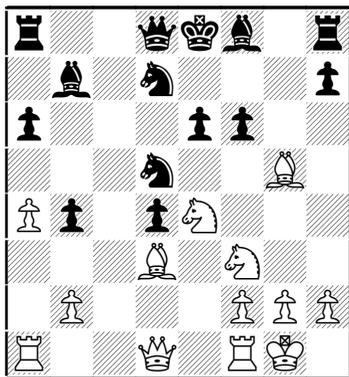
**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 f6 6.Be2 Qc7 7.0-0 fxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 Bd7 10.f4 0-0-0 11.Nd2 g5 12.Nf3 gxf4 13.Bxf4 Bg7 14.b4 cxb4** [Antonio is obviously a believer in the "greed is good" philosophy. Maybe this game will give him second thoughts!] **15.cxb4 Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Qxb4 17.Bg5** [17.Rb1! Qxf4 18.Qc2+ Bc6 (18...Kb8 19.Rxb7+ Kxb7 20.Rb1+ Ka8 21.Qc7+-) 19.Ba6 Qa4 (what else?) 20.Bxb7+ Kc7 21.Qc5 Bf8 22.Bxc6 Bxc5 23.Bxa4 Bb6 24.Ng5+-] **17...Rf8 18.Qc2+** [18.Rb1!?] **18...Kb8 19.Rab1 Qa4 20.Qb2 Bc8?** [An unfortunate choice. After the better 20...b6 Black is past the worst.] **21.Rfc1 Rf7** [21...Qd7 is no better after 22.Bb5 Qf7 23.Qa3+-; 21...b6 22.Bb5 Qa5 23.Qc2+-] **22.Qc3 Nh6 23.Bb5** [23.Nd4!?] **23...Qe4 24.Rb4 Qg6** [Most of Black's pieces can't even watch what's happening on the queenside.] **25.Ba6** [25.Be3 was probably even better.] **25...Rd7 26.Be3 Ng4 27.Bd4 Qe8 28.Bb5** [28.Bxb7! Rxb7 29.Qc5 mates in a few moves.] **28...Qd8 29.Bxa7+! Kxa7 30.Ra4+ Kb8 31.Qa3 Nf2+ 32.Kg1 Nh3+ 33.Kf1 1-0**

John Duneas drew with youngster Scott Yang while Hans Gao was held to a draw by Nicole Tsoi. Ivan Dordevic had a close shave, winning on time against veteran Ceferino Isaac in a lost position. Probably the best game was this one:

**Thornton, Giovanni A (2236) - Li, William (1975) [D48]**

North Shore Open-A 37th Auckland (1.3), 27.08.2011

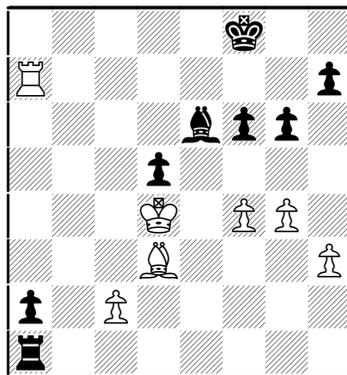
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 Nd5 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Ne4 cxd4 13.a4 b4 14.Bg5 f6 15.exf6 gxf6



16.Nxd4! f6g5 [16...Qe7 17.Bh4 also promises suffering for the black king, if not quite so drastically.] 17.Qh5+ Ke7 18.Nxg5 Qe8 [18...Ne5 19.Ngxe6] 19.Qh4 Nf7 20.Rfe1 [20.Ndxe6] 20...Qh5 21.Qg3 Qg4 22.Rxe6+ Kd7 23.Rxf6 Qxd4 [23...Qxg3 24.Rf7+ Be7 25.hxg3 is better but still hopeless.] 24.Qh3+ Ke8 25.Qh5+ Kd7 26.Bf5+ Kd8 27.Ne6+ Ke7 28.Qf7+ Kd6 29.Nxd4+ 1-0

Garbett, Luke Li and Dordevic cruised to their second wins while that nuisance, the

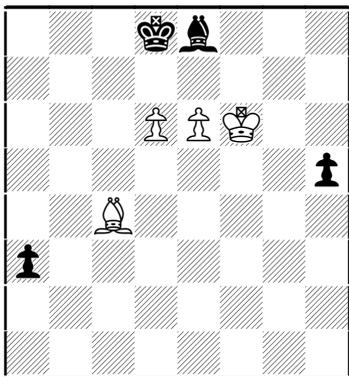
mobile phone had a role on board two in the game Stuart, Richard – Thornton, Gino. This is the position after Black's 32nd move:



34.Kc5 [This looks risky but I, too, thought it had to be played. However, 34.c3, with the possible ♖c2-b3, is a possible alternative.] 34...d4!? 35.Bc4 Bxc4 36.Kxc4 Ke8? [Missing his chance. The White king's position is precarious as he must remain hidden from the black rook. This suggests 36...d3! 37.♔c3 dxc2 38.♔xc2 ♖h1 39.♖xa2 ♖h2+ 40.♔b1 ♖xh3 and the white king's distance from the action should be decisive, e.g. 41.♖a8+ ♔g7 42.g5 (42.♖a7+ ♔h6 43.♖f7 ♖g3 44.♖xf6 ♖xg4 45.♖f7 ♖h4 46.♔c2 ♖h5 47.♖a7 ♖f5 48.♖a4 ♔h5 49.♔d3 ♖f6 50.♖a7 h6 51.♔e3 ♔g4+) 42...♖f3 43.♖a7+ ♔g8 44.♖a4 (44.♖a8+ ♔f7 45.♖a7+ ♔e6 46.♖xh7 ♖xf4 47.gxf6 ♔xf6 48.♔c2 ♖d4+) 44...fxg5 45.fxg5 ♖f5 46.♖g4 (46.♖a8+ ♔f7 47.♖a7+ ♔e6 48.♖xh7 ♖xg5 49.♔c2 ♖d5+) 46...♖c5 47.♔b2 ♔f7 48.♔b3 ♔e6 49.♖h4 ♖xg5 50.♖xh7 ♖c5+) 37.♔b3 [It's just a draw now.] 37...Rf1 [Or 37...♖h1 38.♖xa2 ♖xh3+ 39.♔c4 ♖f3 40.f5 gxf5 41.gxf5

♖xf5 42.♞a7=] 38.Kxa2 Rxf4 39.Rxh7  
 Rf3 40.Kb2 Rg3 41.Kc1 Rg2 42.Rg7 g5  
 43.Ra7 Rg3 44.Rh7 Rg2 45.Rb7 Rg3  
 46.Rb3 Rg2 47.Rd3 Rh2 48.Kb2 Ke7  
 49.Kb3 Ke6 50.Rxd4 Rxh3+ 51.Kb4 Ke5  
 52.Rc4 Rg3 and, sadly, White now lost by  
 cellphone in a clearly drawn position, 0-1.  
 So Gino joined the 2's.

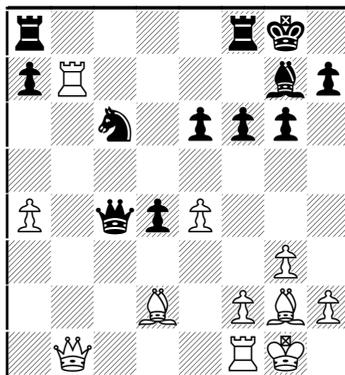
The game Krstev, Antonio (2237) -  
 Wright, Caleb (1945) featured a fascinating  
 bishop ending. Antonio had already passed  
 up several winning moves before reaching  
 this position. Connected passed pawns  
 versus two far-apart pawns, both have their  
 advantages in bishop endings but the  
 farther advanced white pawns should be  
 better. They still are, but not for much  
 longer!



56.e7+? [56.♗e5! was the last chance to  
 win, e.g. 56...♗c8 (56...h4 57.e7+ ♗c8  
 58.♗e6 ♗d7+ (58...h3 59.♗a6+ ♗b8  
 60.d7+-; 58...a2 59.♗xa2 h3 60.♗d5 h2  
 61.♗e4 (zugzwang) 61...♗d7+  
 62.♗f7+-) 59.♗f7+-) 57.e7 ♗d7 58.♗f6  
 ♗b7 59.♗c6! ♗e8 (59...h4 60.♗xd7 a2  
 61.e8♞ a1♞+ 62.♞e5+-) 60.♗d5+ (Not  
 60.d7? ♗xd7 61.♗xd7 a2 62.e8♞ a1♞+

63.♗g5=) 60...♗c8 61.♗e6 h4 62.♗c4  
 ♗d7+ 63.♗f7 ♗b7 64.e8♞ ♗xc8+ 65.♗xc8  
 h3 66.d7 h2 67.♗d5+-] 56...Kd7 57.Ke5  
 [This is actually the only move that doesn't  
 lose . . .] 57...♗c6 [. . . and so is this.]  
 58.Bd5+ Kd7 59.Bb3 Kc8? [59...♗c6 is  
 the only move again: 60.♗a4+ ♗c5 (or  
 60...♗b6) 61.d7 (61.♗xe8 a2 62.d7 a1♞+  
 with a draw) 61...♗xd7 62.♗xd7 a2 63.e8♞  
 a1♞+ 64.♗f5=] 60.Be6+ Kb7 61.d7?  
 [Missing 61.♗d5+ ♗b6 62.♗c6 ♗c5  
 63.d7+-] 61...Bxd7 62.Bxd7 a2 63.e8♞  
 a1Q+ 64.Kf5 and play carried on for a  
 time but there were no real prospects of  
 anything but a draw: 64...Qf1+ 65.Kg5  
 Qg2+ 66.Kh6 Qd2+ 67.Kh7 Qd3+  
 68.Kg7 Qd4+ 69.Kg8 Qg1+ 70.Kf7 Qf2+  
 71.Kg6 Qg2+ 72.Kxh5 Qh2+ 73.Kg5  
 Qd2+ 74.Kg6 Qg2+ 75.Kf7 Qf3+ 76.Ke7  
 Qa3+ 77.Kf6 Qc3+ 78.Kg5 Qd2+ 79.Kg4  
 Qg2+ 80.Kh4 Qf2+ 1/2-1/2.

Garbett and Thornton continued on their  
 merry way in the third round, though both  
 needed some assistance. Luke Li just  
 blundered his queen on top board but the  
 game Thornton, Gino (2236) Dordevic, Ivan  
 (2149) was more interesting:



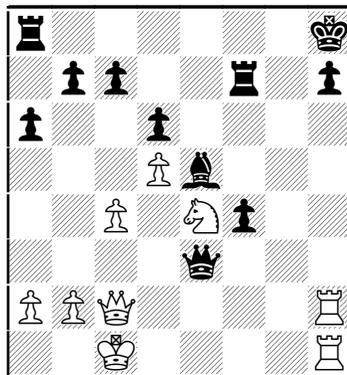
**21...Rac8?** [An unfortunate choice as there were several good alternatives, of which 21...♖ab8 was likely the best.] **22.Rc1 Qxa4** [It is hard to suggest anything better.] **23.Rxg7+! Kxg7 24.Qb7+ Kh8 25.Bh6 Rg8 26.Qf7 Rc7 27.Qxc7 Ne5 28.Qe7 Nd7 29.Rc8 Qd1+ 30.Bf1 Qh5 31.Qg7# 1-0.**

This left Garbett and Thornton with 3 points, followed by Dordevic and Duneas on 2½ and then Luke Li and Stuart on 2 – made doing the draw easy! After a refreshing night's sleep the leaders . . . had a very quick draw. Another dubious Duneas opening came right against Dordevic and John obtained a winning queen ending . . . but agreed a draw a few moves before the time control at move 40. It did look as though Ivan might have a perpetual check, but he didn't! Luke Li gained a decent advantage against Stuart but frittered it away. Stuart's cheeky pawn capture was good and Li self-destructed later.

**12) Li, Luke Zuhao (2223) - Stuart, Richard (2087)**

North Shore Open-A 37th Auckland (4.3), 28.08.2011

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be3 d6 6.f3 Nc6 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.0-0-0 Ne8 10.g4 f5 11.exf5 gxf5 12.h3 Ng6 13.Bd3 a6 14.Qc2 Nf4 15.Bxf4 exf4 16.Nge2 Be5 17.Rdg1 Kh8 18.Rg2 Qh4 19.Rhg1 Qxh3!? 20.gxf5 Nf6 21.Ne4 Nxe4 22.Bxe4 Bxf5 23.Nc3 Rf7 24.Rh2 Bxe4 25.Nxe4 Qxf3 26.Rgh1 Qe3+**



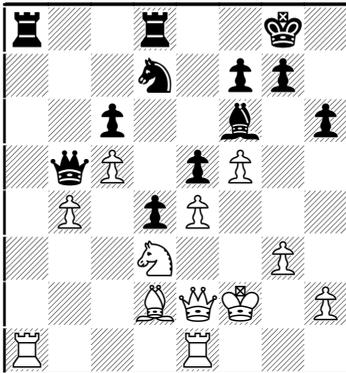
**27.Kb1??** [The obvious 27.Nd2 is about equal after 27...Kg8 28.Rxh7 Rxh7 29.Qxh7+ Kf8 30.Qf5+ Kg8 as White has nothing better than perpetual check.] **27...Rg8** [Black has taken over the initiative to go with his extra pawns.] **28.Nf2 Rgg7 29.Rh3 f3 30.a3 Qe2 31.Ne4 Qxc2+ 32.Kxc2 Rg2+ 33.Kd3 Bxb2 34.Rf1 f2 35.Ke2 Bd4 36.Rg3 Rxg3 37.Nxg3 Bc5 38.Ne4 Bxa3 39.Ng5 Rf5 40.Ne6 b5 41.Kd3 Bc5 42.Nxc7 bxc4+ 43.Ke2 Re5+ 0-1**

Going into the last round Garbett and Thornton still had their half-point lead on 3½/4 while Duneas and Stuart were next on 3 points. Perhaps Garbett's thinking when offering the quick draw against Gino had been the better colours he would likely have in the last round; he was due for white while Gino had just had two white's so would certainly get black. However, it was not to be as Stuart had just had two blacks and had just scored a minor upset against Luke Li to get him a pairing against Paul.

**(Stuart,Richard (2087) - Garbett,Paul A (2347)**

North Shore Open-A 37th Auckland (5.1),  
28.08.2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6  
5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 e5  
9.0-0 0-0 10.Qc2 h6 11.Na4 d5 12.a3 Be7  
13.b4 Be6 14.Bb2 Qb8 [Protecting the e5-  
pawn is hardly a worthwhile task for the  
queen so 14...d4 should be considered.]  
15.c5 d4 16.Bc1 Nh5 17.g3 Bh3 18.Re1  
Bg4 19.Be2 Bxe2 20.Qxe2 Nf6 21.Nb2 a5  
22.Bd2 Rd8 [22...axb4 23.Bxb4 Nd7  
24.Nd3 is better for Black (better minor  
pieces and pawn structure) but he could  
also consider; 22...Bxc5 23.Nd3 Bb6 with a  
sound extra pawn.] 23.Nd3 axb4 24.axb4  
Nd7 25.f4 Qb5 26.Kf2 Bf6 27.f5



Up to here, Paul had had slightly the better of things but now he loses the plot: 27...Ra4 28.Nb2! Rxb4 [Black's 27th relinquished his edge and this makes things much worse. The lesser evil was 28...Qxe2+ 29.Kxe2 Raa8 30.Nd3 when it's White for choice but Black's position should certainly be tenable.] 29.Bxb4 Qxb4 30.Nd3 Qb5 31.Reb1 Qc4 32.Rc1

Qb5 33.Qc2 Qb7 34.Rcb1 Qc7 [Clearly, Black does not have enough for the exchange with zero counterplay, and Stuart efficiently cl; ocks up the point.] 35.Ra2 Be7 36.Kf3 Rb8 37.Rxb8+ Qxb8 38.Ra5 Bf6 39.Qa2 Nf8 40.Ra8 Qb5 41.Ke2 Qb7 42.Ra7 Qb8 43.Qxf7+ Kh8 44.Qb7 Qe8 45.g4 Kg8 46.h3 Kh7 47.Ra8 Qd7 48.Qxd7 Nxd7 49.Rc8 h5 50.Rxc6 hxg4 51.hxg4 Kh6 52.Rd6 Nb8 53.Nxe5 Kg5 54.Nf3+ Kxg4 55.Nxd4 Kf4 56.Kd3 Be5 57.Ne6+ Kf3 58.Rb6 Nd7 59.Rb4 Bf6 60.Rb3 Ba1 61.Nd4+ Kf4 62.Ne2+ Ke5 63.Rb5 Kf6 64.Nc3 Ne5+ 65.Kc2 Nf3 66.Rb6+ Ke5 67.Re6+ Kd4 68.c6 1-0

So Richard Stuart completed a remarkable come-back after the round 2 disaster to finish on 4 points. It got even better when little happened in Duneas-Thornton before the draw was agreed so that Gino also finished on 4 points (failing utterly to fulfil his pre-tournament prediction of 4½ points) for a shared victory. This left Garbett and Duneas sharing third place and they were joined by Krstev, who beat Jeremy Browne in a game of oft-changing fortunes, and Dordevic who beat Yang after the latter imploded in a drawn bishop ending. Gao and Li didn't bother fighting for a share of third place to complete disappointing tournaments.

	<b>Player</b>	<b>Rtg</b>
1	Thornton, Gino A	2236
2	Stuart, Richard	2087
3	Garbett, Paul A	2347
4	Duneas, John	2134
5	Dordevic, Ivan	2149
6	Krstev, Antonio	2237
7	Stone, Andrew	1889
8	Li, Luke (Zuhao)	2223

9	Perry, Roger	2017	John McDonald (Wanganui) and Quentin
10	Lim, Benjamin	2040	Johnson (Otago) shaped up to be serious
11	Gao, Hans	2124	competition, and Arie Nijman (Canterbury)
12	Browne, Jeremy A	2131	and Hamish Gold (Otago) returned to
13	Yang, Scott	1936	defend their shared title from 2010.
14	Wright, Caleb	1945	
15	Johns, Daniel P	1844	The first round produced two upset draws,
16	Tsoi, Nicole	1862	with Otago's Bob Clarkson drawing with
17	Isaac, Ceferino	1943	Arie Nijman, and ACC's Simon Lyall
18	Seabrook, Roy	2053	sharing the point with Ross Jackson.
19	Li, William	1975	
20	Yao, Winston	1856	

The B-grade (under-1800) was jointly won by Grant Burrows and Simon Lyall with 4½/5 who, unfortunately, didn't get to play each other. William Zhang followed up his fine results in the national junior tournaments in taking sole third place on 4 points. The Junior tournament, played as a one-day rapidplay, was won by Nathan Tee with a picket fence.

## 2011 South Island Championship

**By Craig Hall**

The 2011 South Island Championship drew a reasonable turn out, despite Mother Nature's apparent dislike of Christchurch! A field of 25 were chasing the title and Think Big Grand Prix points. With sponsorship from Dancing Water Wines, and longtime sponsor, Benson Insurance Brokers, the prize fund was a very good one. The top seed was Stephen Lukey, but Ross Jackson (Wellington),

**Clarkson, R – Nijman, A**  
2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 27.07.2011

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.e3 O-O  
5.Bd3 e5 6.d5 d6 7.O-O Na6 8.Nc3 Nc7  
9.e4 Ng4 10.Ne2 Bd7 11.Rb1 b5 12.b3  
Rb8 13.Qc2 bxc4 14.bxc4 Rxb1 15.Qxb1  
Qb8 16.Bg5 f6 17.Bd2 Na6 18.a3 Qc7  
19.Qc1 Rb8 20.h3 Ne5 21.Nxe5 fxe5  
22.Bh6 Rb7 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.Qg5 Be8  
25.Ng3 Kh8 26.f4 e6 27.fxe5 Qg7 28.dxe6  
dxe5 29.Rf6 h6 30.Qxe5 Kh7 31.Qf4 Rb3  
32.Rf7 Bxf7 33.exf7 Qf8 34.e5 Rxd3  
35.h4 Rd4 36.Qf6 Nc7 37.Ne2 Rg4 38.h5  
gxh5 39.Qf5+ Kg7 40.Qf6+ Kh7 41.Qf5+  
Kg7 42.Qf6+ Kh7 43.Qf5+ ½ - ½

The second round mostly went to seedings, but Dan Dolejs upset Ross McKerras, Lyall showed he was in good form with a win over Nijman, and Rik Hothersall survived a major scare against Canterbury junior, Nat McClintock.

**Dolejs, D – McKerras, R**  
2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 27.07.2011

1.b4 d5 2.Bb2 Qd6 3.a3 e5 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nc3  
c6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bh5 8.g4 Bg6 9.Na4 e4

10.Ne5 Nbd7 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.Bg2 Ne5  
13.d3 Qc7 14.g5 Nh7 15.h4 exd3 16.cxd3  
f6 17.f4 Nd7 18.Rc1 Bd6 19.Bxd5 Qd8  
20.Be4 f5 21.Bxf5 gxf5 22.Bxg7 Rg8  
23.Qh5+ 1-0

**Gold, H – McDonald, J**

2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 27.07.2011

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 O-O  
5.d4 d6 6.Nf3 c6 7.O-O Qa5 8.e4 Qh5  
9.Qb3 Na6 10.e5 Ne8 11.Re1 Rb8 12.Re4  
dx5 13.Nxe5 Nc5 14.dxc5 Bxe5 15.Rh4  
Qf5 16.Be4 Qf6 17.Bg2 Bf5 18.Ne4 Bxe4  
19.Rxe4 Ng7 20.h4 Ne6 21.Be3 Rfd8  
22.Rd1 Rxd1+ 23.Qxd1 Rd8 24.Qe2  
Bxb2 25.Bh3 Nd4 26.Bxd4 Bxd4 27.Rf4  
Qe5 28.Qf3 Qe1+ 29.Kg2 Bxf2 30.Rxf7  
Qg1# 0-1

The highlight if the third round was a nice Queen sacrifice by Lyall against Dolejs. Lukey kept up his winning ways, and Johnson beat McDonald in the most important result of the round (S. Lukey, Q. Johnson 3, S. Lyall 2.5...).

**McDonald, J – Johnson, Q**

2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 28.07.2011

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 Nbd7  
5.b3 e5 6.d3 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 a5 8.O-O O-O  
9.a3 Bd6 10.Qc2 d4 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bxf6  
Nxf6 13.c5 Bc7 14.Nbd2 Nd5 15.Rfe1 f5  
16.e3 dxe3 17.fxe3 f4 18.Nc4 fxg3  
19.hxg3 e4 20.dxe4 Bxg3 21.exd5 cxd5  
22.Red1 Bf5 23.Qe2 Qf6 24.Nb6 Rad8  
25.Rf1 Be4 26.Rad1 Qg6 27.Rd4 Qh5  
28.Rd2 Rf5 29.Rd4 Rdf8 30.Rxe4 dxe4  
31.Qc4+ Kh8 32.Qxe4 Re5 33.Qd4 Rxc5

34.Nc4 Rd5 35.Qa1 b5 36.e4 Rd3  
37.Nce5 Rxb3 38.Qd1 a4 39.Qd6 Rf6  
40.Qd1 Bxe5 41.Nxe5 Rxf1+ 42.Qxf1  
Qxe5 43.Qf8+ Kh7 44.Bf1 Qd4+ 45.Kh2  
Qe5+ 46.Kg1 Qg3+ 47.Kh1 Qf3+ 48.Qxf3  
Rxf3 49.Bxb5 Rxa3 50.e5 Kg6 0-1

**Lyall, S – Dolejs, D**

2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 28.07.2011

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxd5 4.d4 Bf5  
5.Bd3 Bg6 6.c4 Nb6 7.Nc3 e6 8.O-O Nc6  
9.Bxg6 hxg6 10.b3 Bb4 11.Bb2 a6 12.a3  
Bd6 13.d5 Bxh2+ 14.Nxh2 Qh4 15.Re1  
Qxh2+ 16.Kf1 O-O-O 17.Qg4 Ne5  
18.Qe4 Qh1+ 19.Ke2 Qh5+ 20.f3 exd5  
21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.cxd5 Rhe8 23.Kf2 f5  
24.Qd4 Nc6 25.dxc6 Rxe1 26.cxb7+ Kxb7  
27.Qxd8 Rxa1 28.Bxa1 g5 29.Qd5+ c6  
30.Qd7+ Kb6 31.Bd4+ c5 32.Qd6+ Kb7  
33.Qd5+ Kb8 34.Be5+ Kc8 35.Qxc5+  
Kd8 36.Qf8+ Kd7 37.Qxg7+ Kc6  
38.Qc7+ Kb5 39.a4+ Kb4 40.Qc4+ Ka3  
41.Bd6+ Kb2 42.Qb4 f4 43.Qa3+ Kc2  
44.Qa2+ Kc3 45.Be5+ Kb4 46.Qc2 Qh4+  
47.Ke2 Qh2 48.Bd6+ Ka5 49.Qc5# 1-0

The fourth round saw Lukey continue his run with a win over Johnson, while Lyall continued his good results with a draw against Gold. Jackson moved into second equal with a win over Tim Rains, as did Hothersall and McDonald with wins over Nigel Richardson and Dolejs respectively (S. Lukey 4, Q. Johnson, J. McDonald, R. Jackson, R. Hothersall, S. Lyall 3...).

**Lukey, S – Johnson, Q**

2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 28.07.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4  
 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 c5 8.cxd5  
 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 exd5 10.Be2 O-O 11.O-O  
 c4 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nd2 Qb6 14.Bxc4 Be6  
 15.Bxe6 Qxe6 16.Re1 f5 17.Qe2 Qc6  
 18.c4 Nd7 19.f3 Nf6 20.fxe4 Nxe4  
 21.Nxe4 fxe4 22.c5 Qd5 23.Qxe4 Rad8  
 24.Qxd5+ Rxd5 25.Re4 Rfd8 26.Rb1  
 Rxd4 27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.Rxb7 Rd1+  
 29.Kf2 Rd2+ 30.Ke3 Rxa2 31.c6 Rc2  
 32.c7 Kh7 33.Rxa7 Kg6 34.Kd4 Kf6  
 35.Kd5 Rd2+ 36.Kc6 Rc2+ 37.Kb7 Rb2+  
 38.Ka8 Rc2 39.Kb8 Rb2+ 40.Rb7 1-0

In the fifth round Lukey extended his lead with another win, this time at McDonald's expense. Johnson put an end to Lyall's run, and Jackson mated Hothersall rather unexpectedly. Meanwhile, Chris Benson made his presence felt as he moved into an equal share of fourth, with a win over Gold, and Ross McKerras joined him, beating another promising Canterbury junior, Wil Undy (S. Lukey 5, Q Johnson, R. Jackson 4, R. McKerras, C. Benson 3.5...).

### **Hothersall, R – Jackson, R**

2011 South Island Championships  
 Christchurch, 29.07.2011

1.c4 f5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2  
 O-O 6.Nf3 Qe8 7.O-O d6 8.d5 c6 9.Ng5  
 h6 10.Nh3 g5 11.Qc2 e5 12.dxe6 Bxe6  
 13.b3 Qh5 14.f4 Ne4 15.Bb2 Bd4+ 16.e3  
 Bxe3+ 17.Kh1 gxf4 18.Nxf4 Nxf3# 0-1

### **McDonald, J – Lukey, S**

2011 South Island Championships  
 Christchurch, 29.07.2011

1.c4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.d3  
 O-O 6.e4 fxe4 7.dxe4 e5 8.Nge2 Nc6 9.O-

O d6 10.h3 Be6 11.b3 Qd7 12.Kh2 Rf7  
 13.Be3 Raf8 14.Qd2 Nh5 15.Rac1 Nf4  
 16.Nxf4 exf4 17.gxf4 Rxf4 18.Nd5 Rh4  
 19.Bg5 Rxh3+ 20.Bxh3 Bxh3 21.Rg1 Ne5  
 22.Qe2 Nf3+ 23.Kh1 Bg2+ 24.Kxg2 Qg4+  
 0-1

### **Benson, C – Gold, H**

2011 South Island Championships  
 Christchurch, 29.07.2011

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d6 3.d4 Bf5 4.Bg2 Qd7  
 5.Nh4 Be4 6.f3 Bc6 7.Qd3 Na6 8.e4 d5  
 9.Nc3 O-O-O 10.e5 Ng8 11.a3 Nb8 12.b4  
 b6 13.b5 Bb7 14.a4 e6 15.f4 Be7 16.Nf3  
 h5 17.a5 Nh6 18.axb6 axb6 19.h3 Nf5  
 20.Kf2 f6 21.Bd2 Qe8 22.Ra7 c5 23.bxc6  
 Nxc6 24.Raa1 Qg6 25.Ne2 fxe5 26.Nxe5  
 Nxe5 27.fxe5 Qf7 28.Kg1 Rhf8 29.Kh2  
 Rd7 30.c4 g5 31.cxd5 exd5 32.Ra7 Nh6  
 33.Rf1 Qg7 34.Rfa1 Rf2 35.Ra8+ Bxa8  
 36.Rxa8+ Kc7 37.Qc3+ Bc5 38.dxc5  
 Rxc3+ 39.Kxg2 1-0

Lukey retained his lead in the sixth round. After winning an exchange against Jackson he overlooked Jackson's mating net idea and had to sacrifice a piece, leaving a drawn ending. Johnson moved into sole second place with a win over McKerras, while Benson beat Hothersall to move into third equal. Also, McDonald beat Richardson to stay in touch, Lyall beat Ed Rains and Dolejs beat Nijman (S. Lukey 5.5, Q. Johnson 5, R. Jackson, C. Benson 4.5, J. McDonald, S. Lyall, D. Dolejs 4...).

### **Lukey, S – Jackson, R**

2011 South Island Championships  
 Christchurch, 29.07.2011

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7

5.Bg5 O-O 6.e3 c6 7.Rc1 Nbd7 8.Bd3 Re8 9.O-O Nf8 10.Ne5 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nd5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Ne4 f6 14.Nf3 Rd8 15.Qe2 Bd7 16.Nc5 Be8 17.e4 Nf4 18.Qe3 N4g6 19.Qb3 Bf7 20.Qxb7 Qxb7 21.Nxb7 Rdc8 22.Nd6 Rcb8 23.Rc2 Rb6 24.Rfc1 Rd8 25.Nxf7 Kxf7 26.Bb3 Nf4 27.Rd2 g5 28.g3 Nh3+ 29.Kg2 g4 30.d5 exd5 31.exd5 cxd5 32.Bxd5+ Rxd5 33.Rxd5 Rxb2 34.Nd2 Rxa2 35.Ne4 Re2 36.Rc4 Re1 37.Ng5+ fxg5 38.Rxg4 h5 39.Rgd4 g4 40.Rd1 Rxd1 41.Rxd1 Ng5 42.Ra1 Nfe6 43.Rxa7+ Kg6 44.Ra6 Kf5 45.Ra5+ Kg6 46.Rd5 Nf3 47.h3 Ned4 48.hxg4 hxg4 1/2-1/2

In round seven Lukey moved closer to the South Island title with another win, this time over Dolejs. Benson continued his good form with a draw against Johnson, and McDonald joined Benson in third place with a win over Jackson (S. Lukey 6.5, Q. Johnson 5.5, J. McDonald, C. Benson 5...).

Going into the eighth and final round, Lukey had almost certainly won the tournament and title, and his win over McKerras achieved that. The minor placings were still up for grabs, but ended up going to seeding as Johnson beat Jackson, and McDonald beat Benson in a time scramble. Benson still tied for first in the U1900 grade, with Lyaal and Gold, who beat Richardson and Dolejs respectively, and Otago junior, Leighton Nicholls won the U1600 grade. Canterbury junior, Nat McClintock won the DD Smash upset prize (donated by Dan Dolejs).

#### **McDonald, J – Benson, C**

2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 30.07.2011

1.c4 e5 2.g3 f5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 e4 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 d6 8.Nge2 Be6 9.Qb3 Qc7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Rc1 Nd7 12.O-O Bf7 13.f3 Bg5 14.Nd1 exf3 15.Rxf3 g6 16.Qd3 O-O 17.Ndc3 Nf6 18.b4 Rfe8 19.b5 Rac8 20.bxc6 bxc6 21.Nf4 Qe7 22.Re1 Bh6 23.Rff1 g5 24.Nh3 Bg6 25.Qd1 Ng4 26.e4 Qd7 27.exf5 Ne3 28.Rxe3 Rxe3 29.fxg6 Rxc3 30.Qh5 Qg7 31.gxh7+ Qxh7 32.Bxc6 Rf8 33.Bd5+ Kh8 34.Re1 g4 35.Qxg4 Be3+ 36.Kh1 Qh6 37.Be6 Rc2 38.Qe4 Rc3 39.d5 Rc1 40.Rxc1 Bxc1 41.Qd4+ Qg7 42.Qh4+ Qh7 43.Qd4+ Qg7 44.Qh4+ Bh6 45.Nf4 Qa1+ 46.Kg2 Qb2+ 47.Kh3 Qf6 48.Qh5 Kg7 49.Qg4+ Kh7 50.Nh5 Qf1+ 51.Kh4 Qc1 1-0

#### **Johnson, Q – Jackson, R**

2011 South Island Championships  
Christchurch, 30.07.2011

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.a4 Qh4+ 10.g3 Qd8 11.Nf3 O-O 12.O-O a6 13.Bd3 Qc7 14.Re1 Nb6 15.a5 N6d7 16.Bf1 b5 17.axb6 Nxb6 18.h3 N8d7 19.e5 dxe5 20.d6 Qb8 21.fxe5 Bb7 22.Bf4 h6 23.h4 Qe8 24.Bh3 Qd8 25.Rb1 Bc6 26.e6 fxe6 27.Bxe6+ Kh7 28.Nd5 Nxd5 29.Bxd5 Bxd5 30.Qxd5 Rb8 31.Re7 Rf5 32.Ne5 Nf8 33.Qxc5 g5 34.Qc2 Qc8 35.Rc7 Qe6 36.g4 gxf4 37.gxf5 Qxe5 38.f6+ Kg8 39.Rxg7+ Kh8 40.Qd2 Qxf6 41.Re7 Qg6+ 42.Kh2 Qg3+ 43.Kh1 Qxh4+ 44.Qh2 Qg5 45.Rd1 Ng6 46.Rc7 Nh4 47.d7 Rd8 48.Rc8 f3 49.Rxd8+ Qxd8 50.Qe5+ Kh7 51.Qe8 Qg5 52.Qf7+ 1-0

In all, a fine performance from Lukey to win the South Island Championship and also the All Canterbury Championship, and Johnson was close with a good second.

Many thanks to the Canterbury Chess Club for organising an excellent tournament, with Benson Insurance and Dancing Water Wines providing fantastic sponsorship. Final results can be viewed and games downloaded at [www.chess.org.nz](http://www.chess.org.nz) in the 2011 South Island Championships section (the link is on the left hand side of the page).

## ***SI Rapid***

The South Island Rapid attracted a small field of 18 players, few of whom had played in the championship itself. The main interest centred around which of the two top seeds, Scott Wastney and Roger Nokes, would prevail. Their individual encounter was drawn, however Nokes conceded a draw to Nick Cummings so Roger won the tournament with 5.5/6. On residency grounds Roger became SI Rapid Champion.

***b2 or not b2: That is the Question!  
(Part III)***

**By Steve Willard**

**B**efore revealing the decision I eventually made vis-à-vis El Diablo versus S. Willard (2008 Golden Knights postal chess championship) I would first urge you to reacquaint yourself with the central facts (as presented in article #2) and to then meditate on these words: No

captain in the Soviet navy has ever been faced with such decisions: the fate of the boat, the crew, and the fate of the world all in balance! (see K-19: The Widowmaker)

Though it may strike you odd to quote Capt. Polenin (Liam Neeson) at a time like this, I think you'll agree that it is exceedingly apropos when examined in the following context: boat = qualifying for semi-finals; crew = the lives of my family and those I hold dear; and world = that select group of King's Indian aficionados who relish the Bronstein Attack!

You see I needed to score 1.5 out of my 2 remaining games to advance to the semi finals, and my best chance lay against El Diablo, my prisoner opponent (real name withheld in the interests of us all) where after a brilliantly played counterattack in my King's Indian Defence I had finally secured a winning advantage! But one fateful evening after flicking through the TV channels I chanced upon the TV show, 'America's Toughest Prisons' and realised that El Diablo's prison, 'Pelican Bay' was not the country prison farm for delinquent accountants I had imagined, but a notorious super maximum security prison, home to California's most dangerous inmates. My opponent was a bona-fide psychopath! What's more he had offered me a draw from his lost position! What to do? Are you beginning to comprehend my precarious position? Are you starting to sweat now?

But what about the other game? Mightn't there be a way to win that one instead and render my dilemma moot? Of course this was the exact plan that I

embarked on: extended timeout with El Diablo to allow me to harness all my energies in my endgame with Johnny Canuck (see Wikipedia).

In that game, playing the white pieces, I had decided upon the aggressive Bird's Opening (1.f4) with the hope that my opponent would answer with the sharp From's Gambit (1... e5?!)-- now I'm not one to brag but had he chosen that course of action, I (armed with Timothy Taylor's detailed book) am fairly confident that we would not be stressing over things right now. Sadly, however, my opponent chose a quiet line but No Worries—I had another trick up my sleeve, The Polar Bear System (as developed by Icelandic GM Henrik Danielsen—see his videos on YouTube).

The game, in all modesty, turned into a fascinating struggle and eventually my middlegame play netted a pawn, which I held onto as we entered the endgame phase. The problem was that my experienced opponent knew a thing or two about endgames and so he forcibly traded down to a bishops of same color scenario. I consulted Ruben Fine and discovered that Canuck's king was in the proper position to hold. Not a good sign but still no reason to panic just yet, instead let us see what Mark Dvoretzky has to say about this configuration? Hmm...okay well what about Karsten Mueller? Oh, I see...ahhh, is there a Doctor John Nunn in the house?

Okay, so it was now crystal clear that my other game was theoretically drawn. Couple that with the fact that I had made precious little headway in the non-chessical

realm as well, despite my best efforts. You see Canuck lived in some remote portion of Canada, he had a common name, and he was to a large degree incommunicative. Oh but I did try though: I spent many a postcard extolling the virtues of the "winter games" writ large, and of hockey in particular—nothing. I praised Canada's contribution to the world of music: Anne Murray, K.D. Lang, Celine Dion, Alanis Morissette, etc. etc. and then when that got no response, I switched gears to cover famous Canadian actors. I praised maple syrup, I peppered my prose with all forms of Eh, threw in generous amount of "hosers" and "take offs" but all to no avail.

I was just about ready to give up (off him a draw) when I remembered that the one time Canuck had actually initiated conversation with me was back in August 2008, and that had been motivated by a press conference wherein a couple guys who lived in Georgia, to include a Sheriff's deputy I might add, had announced that they had recently captured a genuine Bigfoot. As I happen to live in the state of Georgia, I had assumed that Canuck was just making light of the connection but, truth be told, I hadn't actually been able to make out much of what he wrote—his handwriting was atrocious almost to the point of illegibility. Perhaps there was a chance after all?

As I hurried to locate a handwriting specialist, the calendar reminded me that my "vacation time" had come to an end and so I really had to make a decision regarding El Diablo. What to do? I spent hours just staring at the board: his king stood on b2

with mine just 5 squares away on g7. The kings eyed each other across the desert (I mean diagonal) and in my head I could hear the theme song from “The Good, The Bad & The Ugly.” (if you can, please pause here and give that tune a listen...it’ll help set the stage) I asked myself, “What would Clint Eastwood do?” but I already instinctively knew the answer to that question—he was the consummate gunslinger!

I felt confident that I might be able to convert my advantage, yes chess immortality was within my grasp! Of course, as nice as posthumous fame sounds, there is something to be said for good old plain humousness (that might not actually be a word, but I think you know what I mean)! I looked at the open package on the floor (the beans, the wine, the book – see article #2) and I looked at the pictures of my family, and then I stared at his king. B2 or not B2, that really was the question... and so finally, I hope you will be able to forgive my frailty, I acquiesced and took El Diablo’s draw offer.

My 2008 Golden Knights dreams had come to an end. Nothing more could be done and so I sat down to also wrap up my game with Canuck. I was just about ready to drop my letter (containing draw offer) in the mail when the doorbell rang. My specialist had actually been able to translate much of the Bigfoot letter. Turns out that old Canuck wasn’t kidding at all, he was a true believer! My feverish mind quickly went to work and I finally settled on one final, desperate attempt. I would RESIGN!

In my letter to Canuck, I made it clear that

I realized our game was drawn but that I wanted to Resign because I had heard that sometimes folks who only score 4 points actually advance to the semi-finals and I didn’t want to take that chance! I went on to explain that my studies of Nostradamus and the Mayan Calendar had convinced me that aliens would be visiting the earth in 2012 and that I needed to show I was ready by not making any long-term plans. Oh they were going to know that I was a serious “hoser” and so I would reap my just rewards, Eh Eh! I closed by pointing out that he would now finish with 4.0 points and then I wished him well in the event (which I characterized as “somewhat likely”) he advanced to the semi-finals. I mailed the letter and held my breath.

Within 2 weeks I was to receive a number of shocks, I recount them for you in the order they were received: (1) my parents called and asked about the gift basket they had sent me for my birthday (2) a lengthy letter from El Diablo in which he confessed to timing his draw offer to coincide with the Pelican Bay television program and wasn’t that a hoot! (3) a notarized statement from Canuck stressing that he had, in fact, already resigned our game several days before he actually received my letter and so “that was that!” and (4) a letter from U.S. Postal Chess congratulating me on my fine result and welcoming me into the semi-final round. Oh but you have got to love Postal Chess!! Until next time...

## Letter From the Kingside – 128 “man” Circus

by Roger Nokes

The World Cup is on! To most Australians and New Zealanders that World Cup is the Rugby World Cup now into its second week in New Zealand. Twenty teams from across the world are here, along with tens of thousands of rugby fans. It has been a long time since New Zealand hosted the event and the expectations placed on the New Zealand All Blacks are beyond high. Perhaps surprisingly there are many kiwis less than enthused by a rugby event that is dominating their news media. If you happen to be one, and a chess lover as well, then maybe you have sought refuge in the “other” World Cup”, the biennial chess event held once again in Khanty-Mansiysk.

This 128 player knockout competition is always exciting. Except for the world's very best players, who are exempt qualification for the Candidates Tournament, the World Cup attracts a dazzling field of contenders. Qualifiers from some of the world's lesser chess regions, such as Australasia, also have the unique opportunity to play matches against some of the strongest grandmasters in the world. This year it has been the turn of Zong-Yuan Zhao, Australia's top GM, due to his victory in the zonal tournament earlier in the year. Alas he was eliminated 2-0 by Russian GM Evgeny Tomashevsky

in the first round.

With 128 players, 7 rounds and hundreds of games and dozens of mini-matches, the World Cup is a feast of chess action. There are thrills and spills, upsets, drama, heroism and excitement. Much like a circus! Here are a few of my impressions of this year's event.

With 64 two game mini-matches in the first round of the cup, even with the typically large rating difference between the players, upsets happen. This year was no exception. The Chinese players seemed to be a lightning rod for the underdogs with both Wang Hao and Wang Yue losing to lower rated opponents - Wang Hao by 2-0! Still, when you lose the first game in a two game match you have little choice but to roll the dice in the second.

With one game a day for the two standard time control games, and then all tie break games played the following day, these mini-matches can be fairly demanding on both stamina and nerves. In the first round Russian Alexander Motylev lost 5-4 to lesser known Yuri Drozdovskij from the Ukraine. The match was decided in the sudden death blitz game, the seventh game of the tie breaks. Harrowing stuff particularly if you are the higher rated player and have lost.

This year's World Cup was not an 128 man event. It was in fact a 126 man and 2 women event. The reigning women's world champion Hou Yifan found the competition a little too strong losing 2-0 to Sergei Movsesian of Armenia in the first round, but that other woman, what's her name again..

oh yes Judit Polgar..was in tremendous form. And what a joy it is to see her play at this level. Of course having been in the world's top 10 in the past and once again having breached the 2700 barrier she has the complete arsenal of chess skills. But what makes me such a huge fan is her out and out aggression, her blistering attacks, her speculation, her risk taking, her courage and her ability to hold it all together when maybe it should all fall apart. In the semi-final match between Vassily Ivanchuk and Alexander Grischuk, with the score 2-2 after the first pair of rapid games, Grischuk as white launched a ferocious attack against Ivanchuk's French Defence in the 5th game. The attack was very complicated, apparently unsound but ultimately victorious. How did Grischuk describe the game in the press conference? "In the third game I played in Polgar style: my combination was absolutely unsound, but all the pieces on the board started to hang, and my opponent resigned in three moves. This is so typical of Judit!" (source [www.chessbase.com](http://www.chessbase.com)).

Polgar, despite being ranked about 30th in the field, marched into the third round and duly eliminated the top seed Sergei Karjakin. It was no nonsense chess with Polgar dismantling Karjakin's Berlin Wall in the first game and hanging tough in the second to take the match 1.5-0.5. In the next round against the Cuban GM Dominguez Polgar found herself down 1-0 after losing with the white pieces in the first game. What happened? She duly outplayed Dominguez in the second game with black winning in 112 moves in a R+B vs R endgame where three-fold repetition occurred at least once but was missed by

the Cuban. And after rebalancing the standard time control games Polgar went on to win the tie-breaks and the match 4.5-3.5.

As of writing the event is in its final stages with the final being contested by Grischuk and Peter Svidler. Svidler, to me, has been the revelation of the tournament. He is the most remarkable player. Often in chess events he seems to be just drifting. Lots of draws. When you look at him he seems such an amiable, laid back sort of individual more interested in his beloved cricket than in his chess. Yet he continues to occupy a place in the world elite and the last couple of months explain why. Before the World Cup Svidler had just emerged as the Russian Champion for the 6th time since 1994. In recent times nobody has come close to winning this prestigious championship so often. Now at the World Cup he seems in preeminent form. He leads the final 1-0 having eliminated Caruana, Kamsky, Polgar, and Ponomarev in the previous rounds. It almost appears that the Russian bear occasionally wakes from his slumber and decides to play chess. When he does beware!

One of the enduring and most pleasant memories of the event for me was the second game between David Navara of the Czech Republic and Alexander Moiseenko of the Ukraine in a match that, at that point, was balanced after a first game draw. In making a move with his bishop Navara accidentally touched his king first and this was noticed by his opponent who appealed for the touch move rule to be invoked. However, on realising that Navara would immediately lose a piece, the game and the

match, Moiseenko relented and asked for Navara to be able to play the move that he intended. And so the game continued with Navara gradually outplaying his opponent. On move 114 with a forced win on the board Navara graciously offered a draw, which was accepted. Both players received fair play awards from the Governor of the Russian province in which the event was taking place. Even at the very top levels we see examples of true sportsmanship that should inspire all players.

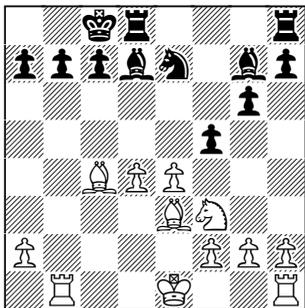
One problem the World Cup poses the chess columnist is a wealth of fantastic games from which one must choose just one. It was tempting to annotate one of Polgar's games but I finally settled on Svidler's victory against Ponomariov in the semi-final. This game not only guaranteed Svidler a place in the final but it was a thematic victory with his beloved Grunfeld, an opening that, from my observations at least, has not always stood up to the test at the highest level.

### **Ruslan Ponomariov - Peter Svidler**

World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (6.2),  
13.09.2011

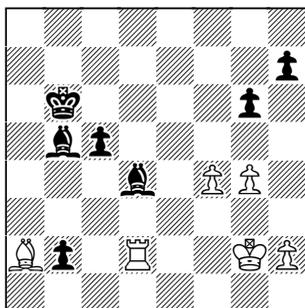
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+** Ponomariov has chosen the perennial favourite, the exchange variation, but his 7th move is unusual. 7 Bc4 and 7 Nf3 are the most common responses and the theory for each is deep and unresolved. However when you are facing one of the leading experts in this opening something a little different can sometimes produce the desired result. **7...Bd7 8.Qa3 Nc6 9.Nf3 e5** Once upon a time I used to employ the Grunfeld,

influenced to some extent by my friendship with Vernon Small, a Grunfeld enthusiast. In time I traded it for the Modern Benoni, an opening that seemed to require less strategic sense, and that was more aligned with my style. In this position Svidler chooses to hit at White's centre immediately. I doubt I would found such a move. Firstly it seems to give the white queen on a3 some purpose in that she cuts off the possibility of kingside castling. Secondly the indian bishop is blocked if White chooses to advance his d pawn. In the Grunfeld the c5 advance always seems a more attractive means of undermining the imposing white centre as it enables the bishop on g7 to play a more active part. **10.Be3** [White chooses to remain flexible, but it is not clear that he retains much advantage this way. A more logical choice would be 10.d5 Ne7 11.Rb1 b6 12.Bc4 Nc8 13.0-0 Nd6 14.Bd3 when White retains the space advantage and Black is somewhat passive..] **10...exd4 11.cxd4 Qe7 12.Qxe7+ Nxe7 13.Rb1 0-0-0** Now one wonders whether we are still looking at a Grunfeld defence. I am not sure I have ever seen Black castle queenside but with the early exchange of queens there are certain advantages in having the king on this side of the board. One of Black's long term strategic aces in this opening is his queenside pawn majority. With his king nearby the advance of these pawns can be supported. Watch and see. **14.Bc4 f5!?**



This move effectively sacrifices the exchange for a pawn and active play. The passive 14..f6 is not really in the hypermodern style. **15.Ng5 fxe4 16.Nf7 Nf5 17.0-0** [The position has come alive. At the cost of an exchange Black takes control of the centre and his pieces are very active. Another option 17.Bd5 b6 18.Nxh8 Bxh8 19.0-0 Nxd4 20.Rfe1 Be6 21.Bxe4 Bxa2 leads to a double edged position where Black's chance are probably not worse given his queenside pawn phalanx.] **17...Nxd4 18.Bxd4?!** White is in a quandary. Swapping the knight on d4 has its own logic as this piece, with support from the c5 advance, could become very powerful. However leaving Black with an unopposed black bishop supporting the advance of the queenside pawns also has its downside. I can imagine Ponomarev thinking very hard about his choices here. **18...Bxd4 19.Nxh8 Rxh8 20.Bd5 b5 21.Bxe4 c5** White has retained a small material advantage by recapturing the errant e pawn. But I, for one, prefer Black's position. Black has a simple plan of advancing his 3 to 1 pawn majority on the queenside supported not only by his rook and two bishops (one of which is

unassailable without an exchange sacrifice) but also his king, ideally placed on b8. For White I struggle to find such a straightforward plan. His kingside pawn majority is slow to start its advance and even when it does, does it possess the venom of Black's queenside pawns? **22.g3 a5 23.Kg2 b4** My silicon friend initially is not convinced by Svidler's method for advancing his pawns, believing that White has better opportunities to blockade their advance on the white squares. But the longer my friend looks the happier he is with Svidler's plan. **24.Bd5 Kc7** [24...Bb5 25.Rfc1 Re8 26.a3 Kd7 27.axb4 axb4 28.Rd1 Bc6 is probably more accurate. The black pawns are already well advanced with tremendous support from all of the Black pieces.] **25.Bc4 Kd6 26.Rfe1 a4** The computer believes Black's advantage is minimal here but it seems to me that the onus is still very much on White to prove he has a strategy for halting the black pawns. **27.f3 Rb8 28.Re2?!** [28.g4 g5 29.Kg3 Rf8 30.Rbd1 Bc6 31.Rd3 Bd5 also looks good for Black. However the move played grants Black access to the f5 square and White's position rapidly becomes critical.] **28...Bf5 29.Rd1 b3 30.axb3 axb3 31.g4 Bd7 32.Re3 b2** Already the game is almost gone. **33.Rb3 Rxb3 34.Bxb3 Bb5 35.Ba2 Kc6 36.Rd2 Kb6 37.f4?**



(This move is a decisive mistake. Black takes firm control of the b1–h7 diagonal and suddenly the White counterplay on the kingside is stymied and his bishop remains shut out of the game. 37.Bb1 Ka5 38.f4 Bc6+ 39.Kg3 Kb4 40.h4 makes Black work hard for the point as the White kingside pawns provide decent counterchances.] 37...Bc6+ 38.Kg3 Be4 39.Rd1 Kb5 40.Re1 Bd3 41.Re7 c4 42.Rd7 c3! even the bishops are no longer required! 43.Rd5+ Bc5 The long term Grunfeld strategy of utilising the queenside majority is beautifully demonstrated in this masterly display by Svidler. One might almost be tempted to take up the opening again. 0–1

## Events Summary

### North Island Rapid

*Held September 11*

1<sup>st</sup> Paul Garbett 5.5/6

2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Steadman 5.5/6

3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Hague 5/6

### Taranaki Rapid

*Held September 11*

1<sup>st</sup> Alan Ansell 6/6

2<sup>nd</sup> David Notley 5/6

3<sup>rd</sup> Manish Kumar 4.5/6

### Waikato Rapid

*Held August 13*

1<sup>st</sup> Richard Dare 5.5/6

2<sup>nd</sup> Roy Seabrook 5/6

3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Judkins 4/6

### Richard Sutton Cup Rapid

*Held June 21 and July 12*

1<sup>st</sup> Leonard McLaren 7.5/8

2<sup>nd</sup> Roy Seabrook 6/8

3<sup>rd</sup> Philip Mukkattu

### NZ Seniors

*Held July 1-4*

1<sup>st</sup> Lindsay Cornford 4.5/6

2<sup>nd</sup> Wayne Power 4/6

3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Fraemohs 3.5/6

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