

New Zealand Chess

Magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)

October 2012

Volume 39 Number 4



2012 South Island Championship

2012 Istanbul Olympiad Open Report

Plus:

- **History of Chess – NZ's 1989 Bid for the World Championship Part 2**

**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.

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Annual Subscription Rates

NZ: \$24.00 plus postage \$4.00 total \$28.00
International: NZD 24.00 plus postage
NZD 12.00

Advertising Rates

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

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2012 Istanbul Olympiad – The New Zealand Open Team's Tournament

By Mike Steadman

My journey to the Olympiad started back in Queenstown, being the top NZ finisher, I automatically got a spot, so it was just a question of which board I'd be on. With NZ Council making the decision that a junior would go as 5th board if certain qualifying standards were met, this made the race for three other seats pretty heated.

After the selection process ended and the usual drop-out of a player, we finally had the following team selected – Russell Dive, Nic Croad, Mike Steadman, Paul Garbett and Luke Li. NZ Council made a decision (the right one from my opinion) to include a junior in the team if possible this year. As it happened Luke probably would have been selected on form and ability regardless, however, there were a few grumbles – but at some stage we have to give these juniors some experience.

Come the travel day, we were all taking separate paths, mine was up through Singapore, direct to Istanbul. I took the opportunity to hang in Singapore for a couple of days and get to Istanbul two days before the event. I wanted to do everything I could to ensure I was in my best shape. My work finished a week before departure, so I had time to get some final preparation done before the event. I decided to study endgames and tactics; needed to be sharp.

We all met on the 27th at our hotel. Due to some rooming rules, we managed to tag along with Australia as we needed to do some room swapping. It meant we were far above our station in the hotel department. What could have been three star type accommodation out in the boonies, was the four and five star WOW hotels five minutes from the venue. It great work from Hilton working with Ian and Cathy Rogers that got this sorted for us. It was funny to see all the team names in these hotels, all down to team 40 plus 90th ranked New Zealand. Believe me, we scored well being hooked up with the Aussies in this event.

Round 1 we drew up as usual and all faced grandmasters, Germany was very strong, 1 x 2700 and the rest mid 2600's. Luke sat out the first one, the idea was to get him in on the 2nd day when we float down and he can start with an easier opponent and hopefully a win. The first few rounds are always a bit of a yoyo affair till we settle in to the middle of the pack. Russell, Paul and myself were all crushed by the GMs, however Nic did a great job and scored a valuable half point. He did some great preparation and played a nice combination that forced a perpetual. Just the start he needed for his norm chances. 3.5 to .5 to them – Nic saved our trousers ☺.

Round 2 we drew the Nepalese, not a strong team by rating, but these can often be the worst. Priority number one was to win the match, second priority was to win it by a canter. We achieved the first, the second not so. I played my 2nd Black and thought against these low rated, the two Knight Tango is a sure bet if they go down the line. You play 2...Nc6 and pray to the chess gods. When I looked up, I saw 3. Nc3 and I knew I had won. This is a tricky opening to play against, lower rated players can lose quite horribly to it. This was the case here, my opponent played without a plan and before he knew it the standard attack followed and he was crushed. Russell did his usual in a reverse Sicilian, won a pawn, swapped off the heavy bits, then in a grinding endgame, won a second and proceeded to wrap up the point very calmly. Luke got his first introduction to Olympiad's, his player transposed into an Exchange French, Luke got a small plus with the 2 Bishops, won a pawn and started swapping down. With Queens and a Bishop each left on the board, he missed a four move mate, admittedly the clock was against him at this stage. The queens were swapped and he dropped his pawn, then another but managed to hold the draw to our relief. Paul had a Ruy Lopez that appeared to be going well, but a bad exchange plan and the follow-up missed a tactic. Paul didn't like the positions where his opponent could sacrifice the Exchange and crack open his King. With holes everywhere and 2 Knights looking to jump in, it was still his best chance. The way it went he dropped his key central pawn and then his game was pretty much unsalvageable. Bad news for me, probably meant Paul would rest the next day,

meaning I would get a 3rd Black, probably against someone a bit nasty again. Oh well, better to be playing Black than not at all ☺. 2.5 to 1.5 to us, a win on the board.

Malakar,Prachanda (Nepal) – Steadman, Mike (New Zealand)

Olympiad 2012,

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 Here is is, if they play on autopilot, Black is cruising, Nf3 is the move and it stops Black's plan and makes Nc6 a kind of awkward move - we often need to play c5 to get play. **3.Nc3 e5 4.d5 Ne7 5.Bg5?** This is a bad move, swapping the Knight is only good for Black. I'm sure he had originally planned Ne4 to follow and realised at the last minute that Black just takes the knight and after Bxd8, Bb4+ and Black is 2 pieces up. **5...Ng6 6.e4 Bc5 7.Nf3 d6 8.Be2 h6 9.Bc1** White is in a bad way to have to play this move. **9...0-0 10.0-0 Qe7 11.a3 a6 12.b4 Ba7** This position may look good for White, but in fact Black is coasting, watch how the attack develops. **13.h3?** Never move pawns on the side your opponent is stronger, Black goes on autopilot now. Note the Knight on c3 being unprotected, allows the next move for Black. **13...Nh5 14.Bd3 Nhf4 15.Bc2 Qd7** [15...Bxh3 16.gxh3 Qd7 17.Bxf4 Nxf4 18.Nh2 Qxh3 19.Qf3 Bd4 20.Na2 Bxa1 21.Rxa1 This didn't seem too convincing to me at the board. I thought he'd defend badly against the move played.] **16.Ne2? Nxc2 17.Kxc2 Qxh3+ 18.Kg1 Qxf3 19.Qd3 Qg4+ 20.Kh1 f5 21.Ng1** [21.Bd1 Qh4+ 22.Kg1 fxe4 23.Qg3 Bh3 24.c5 dxc5 25.Re1 cxb4 26.Be3 Bxe3 27.fxe3 Rf3 Five pawns up should be enough to win.] **21...fxe4 22.Qxe4 Qh5+ 23.Kg2 Bf5** A good time to resign. **0-1**

Dive,Russell (2334) (New Zealand) - Hamal,Manish (2118) (Nepal)

2012 Istanbul 40th Olympiad Open
Istanbul TUR (2.1), 29.08.2012

[Russell Dive]

English Opening: Four Knights Variation
with g3 1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5
4.Bg2 e5 5.Nc3 Nb6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.a3 Be6
8.d3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.b4 f6 11.Bb2 Qd7
12.Re1 [12.Ne4 a5 13.Nc5 Bxc5 14.bxc5
Nc8=] 12...Rad8 [12...a5 13.b5 Nd4
14.Nxd4 exd4 15.Ne4?] 13.Rc1 [13.Ne4!?
=] 13...a5³ 14.b5 Nd4 15.Nxd4 exd4
16.Ne4 Qxb5 17.Rxc7 Nd5 18.Rc2 Rc8
19.Rxc8 Rxc8 20.Bxd4 Bxa3 Black has
two potentially dangerous passed pawns, so
White needs to do something quickly to
contain or eliminate them. 21.Qa1 Qb4
[!21...Bb4!? 22.Rb1 Qd7?] 22.Rb1² Qe7
23.Nc3 Nxc3 24.Bxc3 b6? [!24...Bb4!? and
Black hangs on 25.Bxb4 axb4?] 25.Rxb6±
a4? [25...Bb4 26.Bd4±] 26.Be4 [!26.Rxe6
was better, then 26...Qxe6 27.Qxa3 Qxe2
28.Bb7+] 26...Bb3 27.Kg2 [27.Rb7!? Qd6
28.Bf3±] 27...Bc5± 28.Rb7 Qe6 29.Rb5
[29.Qb2!?!±] 29...Qd7= 30.Rb7 Qe6
31.Rb5 Qd7= 32.Ra5 Qc7 [32...a3 33.Kg1
Bf8 34.d4=] 33.Bd2± Qb6 [33...Qd7
34.Be3 Bxe3 35.fxe3±] 34.Qc3 Be6
35.Rxa4 Bxf2 36.Qb4 Qxb4 37.Rxb4 Bc5
38.Rb7 Bd4 39.Bf3 Rc2 40.Bb4 Rc1
41.h3 Rg1+ 42.Kh2 Rb1 43.g4 g6 44.Bd2
Rb2 45.Rxb2 Bxb2 46.Kg3 Kf7 47.Ba5
Bb3 48.Bb6 f5 [48...Be5+!? 49.Kf2 f5±]
49.gxf5+- gxf5 50.Kf4 Ke6 51.Kg5 Bg7
52.Bb7 Bd1 [!52...Kf7+] 53.e3 Bf6+
54.Kh6 Kd7 55.Kxh7 Be2 56.Kg6 Be7
57.Ba6 Bf1 58.Kxf5 Bxh3+ 59.Ke5 Bd6+
60.Kd5 Be6+ 61.Ke4 Bh3 62.Bb5+ Ke7
63.Kd4 Bg3 64.Bc4 Bc8 65.Bc5+ Kd7
66.Bd5 Ba6 67.Ke4 Bh2 68.d4 Bf1 69.Kf5
Bh3+ 70.Kf6 Bg1 71.e4 Bg2 72.Be6+ Kc6

73.e5 Bf2 74.Bb3 Bf3 75.e6 Bh5 76.Kg5
Be2 77.e7 Be3+ 78.Kg6 Bc1 1-0

Round 3 we faced Paraguay and this was
a disaster, all boards lost. Russell was
looking a bit awkward in one of his English
lines, seemed to recover, but he got into
time trouble and that is not good against a
GM. A quick two move combination saw a
win of the Queen for a Rook – game over.
Nic played a Dragon, was going to
preparation, and although there were
chances to hold, he had to find exact moves
and missed an exchange sacrifice that was
crushing – game over. I attacked my
opponents King's Indian Defence, we had
dynamic equality, all pieces on their best
squares. I went nuts trying to win, an
exchange sacrifice stopped anything of
mine and his pieces jumped all over my
position – game over. Luke played a quiet
game with his e5, was maybe a little bit
worse, had holding chances, but slipped up
and lost. Not a great day for NZ Chess, 4-0
to Paraguay.

Round 4 Kuwait, not a team I had
played before. It was decided to rest
Russell in this match and me the next day.
As it turned out all their players were
unrated, and hardly any game information
existed on any of them. Luckily Hilton
found their facebook page which kindly
outlined who the players were and their
favourite openings. So I knew my guy was
a King's Indian man, question was whether
to try out my line from the day before or
revert back to my Bd3 line, or try out an e4.
In the end, I decided to try the line again. I
reasoned that he would not have prepared
with his GM coach for my Bd3, the

bulletins not being available till 11.00. So away I went, was initially concerned when he followed the previous game, but I had an improvement ready. He deviated however and seemed to be making it up. He made a mistake and had to sacrifice a Knight for two pawns, he then interestingly decided to try to sacrifice his second Knight for two more pawns. Thinking about the position I saw he'd have seven pawns to my three isolated with Queens off, but everything else on. The funny thought was I knew Russell would take it and proceed to take all the pawns and grind him out, not my style. I turned down the second piece and kept things "interesting" ☺. He made a mistake and I got one of my pawns back, then my King finally got castled and it was over. Paul played a Queens Gambit accepted, the old Alekine's Bg4 line, He sacrificed two pawns and White had difficulties unravelling. His opponent couldn't figure it out and lost his Queen and the game. Luke played a nice a3 Nimzo Indian, his opponent came up with a strange idea, but Luke got active and controlled the centre of the board. In the end a merry King hunt with Queen and Rook on an open board netted his opponent's Queen and the game. The final game was Nic and he tried a Hedgehog setup against his opponent. His man tried something tricky, but Nic played coolly and won a pawn. Nic took the opportunity to swap his Queen for two Rooks, maybe not the best plan, but his opponent got confused and allowed his Queen to be pinned to his Bishop. A 4-0 win, a good comeback from the day before.

2012 Chess Olympiad – Round 4

B. Nasser (Kuwait) – P. Garbett (New

Zealand)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 (a recent experiment for me) **3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4** (and avoiding the heavily analysed lines with e6 followed by c5, where black needs to be prepared for a range of white approaches) **5.Bxc4 e6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.h3 Bh5 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.gxf3 Bd6!?** (very speculative - black offers a pawn in exchange for speed in development. Much more common is 9 ... Nb6, while 9...Rb8 also is playable)

10. e4!? (the only game that I was aware of went 10. Qxb7 0-0, 11.f4 c5 and black developed sufficient play for the pawn. The move chosen is much more ambitious and double-edged)

10. ... Nh5 11.e5 Be7

12.Qxb7 c6! (Black simply can't afford to allow the white queen to take up a dominant position on e4, so a second pawn is sacrificed)

13.Qxc6 Rc8 14.Qa4 (on balance 14.Qa6 seems better – one obscure line is 14 ... 0-0, 15.Be3 Nb6, 16.Bd3 Bb4, 17.Rc1 Qh4 thinking of Nf4 or Rc7 to double rooks. Is this sort of thing worth the two pawns? I'm not sure.) **14. ... 0-0 15. Bd3?** (I don't think it can be right to allow the following exchange – perhaps 15. Ba6 Nb6, 16 Qd1 is better) **15 ... Nxe5 16. Bxh7#, Kxh7 17. dxe5 Qc7 18. Qe4# g6** 19. Bd2 Rb8 (Black has a strong initiative now) **20. Qe3** (hoping for an attack on black's king) **20. ... Rfd8!** (a key idea is to play Rxd2 at the right moment) **21.Rg1 Rxd2, 22.Qxd2 Qxe5# 23.Qe3 Qa5, 24.Rg4?**(white hopes to hide his king on g2/h1 but this is flawed. 24.0-0-0 Bb4 was also unpleasant for white) **24...Rxb2 25.Kf1 Bc5 26.Rg5 Qa6#** (winning on the spot – perhaps what white missed on move 24) **27. Nb5 Bxe3** White resigns **0-1**

**Khaled Hasham (Kuwait) Nic Croad
(New Zealand)**

World Chess Olympiad (Open) Istanbul

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.O-O c5 6.Nc3 Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nb5 A rare side variation, though I was aware of it because I had spent roughly the last two weeks reading the complete Hedgehog by Sergey Shipov. The idea is to capture on d4 with a knight, without allowing the exchange of light squared bishops, however the knight is better placed on c3 where it controls the key b5 and d5 squares where a Black pawn break is likely to arrive. (8.Qxd4 is the best variation at this moment, eventually White will probably try to arrange e2-e4 and then Qd4-e3 and Nf3-d4.)

(8.Nxd4 Bxg2 9.Kxg2 Qc8 is considered mostly harmless, but Black must work quite hard to create decent winning chances here.)

8...a6 On this move I realised I had a choice, it was also possible to castle and then to kick the knight back.

(I decided not to castle as after 8...O-O 9.Qxd4 d6 the pawn on d6 appeared a bit weak to me e.g 10.Rd1 Ne8 (10...Nc6 11.Qf4 (11.Qd3 Qc8 =) 11...Ne8 and soon a7-a6)

11.Bf4 In fact the pawn is more hardy than it looks and even here Black has 11...Nc6 (Not 11...e5? 12.Bxe5! +-)

12.Qd2 e5 13.Be3 +/- White is very happy because of the chronic hole on d5.)

9.Nbxd4 O-O 10.Be3 d6 11.Bh3 This move brings some originality to the game. The idea can be to create some kind of material imbalance with a capture on e6, though this didn't occur in the game.

11...Nbd7 12.b4

(Its too early for the capture on e6 12.Nxe6

fxe6 13.Bxe6+ Kh8 14.Ng5 Ne5 -/+)

12...Re8 13.b5

(13.Nxe6?! fxe6 14.Bxe6+ Kh8 (*The position felt uncomfortable after 14...Kf8 though there was nothing clearly wrong, my intuition at the board was correct however and White has full compensation after 15.Nd4*)

15.Ng5 Rf8 16.Nf7+ Rxf7 17.Bxf7 Ne5 18.Be6 Bc8 19.Bxc8 Rxc8 =+ and Black is better.)

13...Bf8 14.Nc6?! Qc7 15.Bg2 Ng4 I didn't figure out the best plan yet, and was kind of searching around for what to do in this position. **16.Bd4 e5 17.h3** White wants to return the bishop to e3. This may not have been the best idea however as Black has a very strong plan coming.

(After playing e5, I noticed the tricky idea 17.Bb2 axb5 18.cxb5 Bxc6 19.Qc2 Nc5 20.Ng5 g6?

(*In fact Black is ok after 20...e4! 21.bxc6 d5 -/+ but Its probably still better to avoid these complications all together on move 15.)*

21.Bxc6 +- so I didn't need to think long over my next move.)

17...Ngf6 18.Be3 axb5 This was also the best plan on move 15 **19.cxb5 Bxc6** I decided I could make this capture here and eventually round up the pawn on c6. It was also possible to avoid this capture however, and Black has quite a substantial advantage in this case thanks to the extra centre pawns.

(19...d5 20.Qc2 Bc5 -/+)

20.bxc6 Nc5 21.Qc2 h6 22.Qf5 g6 White was threatening Bxh6 **23.Qc2** (23.Qxf6?? Be7 -+ traps the errant queen.)

23...d5 24.Rfd1 Qxc6 25.Nd2 Qa4 26.Nb3 Nxb3 27.axb3 Qxa1? A mistake which undoes most of the progress made by Black

already. Of course this wins material but played this move quickly and when I stopped to think on move 29 it was clear that the rooks were not well coordinated and that this was a problem.

(The strongest way to realise the advantage was with 27...Qb5 after which Black's extra pawn should count eventually.)
28.Rxa1 Rxa1+ 29.Kh2 Raa8 30.Qc6 Bg7 31.Bxb6?!

(White should have a pretty easy time making a draw after 31.Bxb6! Bxb6 (31...Rab8 32.Bxg7 Kxg7 33.Bxd5 =) 32.Qxf6 Re6 33.Qh4 g5 34.Qg4 e4 = would be quite dubious over the board as Black's position is accident prone.)

31...Rac8 32.Qb5

(Not 32.Qd6?? Re6 33.Qb4 Rb8 -+)
32...Rb8 33.Qc6??

(33.Qc5?? Nd7 34.Qxd5 Nxb6 -+)
(33.Qa6?? Re6 34.Qa7 Rxb6 -+)

(As was fairly obvious over the board the correct move was 33.Qa5 Re6 34.Be3 Rxb3 35.Bxd5 Nxd5 36.Qxd5 Rb8 =+ and the game could go on for a long time, but objectively one expects White should be able to hold on here.)

33...Re6 34.Qc7 Rxb6 35.Kg1 Rxb3 36.Qxe5 Rb1+ 37.Bf1

(37.Kh2?? Ng4+ 38.hxg4 Bxe5 -+)
37...Re8

(It turns out that the bishop on f1 can't escape, and after 37...Ra8 38.Kg2 Raal -+ it would be lost as well.)

38.Qc7 Rxe2?!

(There was still 38...Ra8 39.Kg2 Raal -+)
39.Kg2 Rd2 40.Qd8+ Kh7 41.Qe7 Ne4 42.Qxf7 Rxf2+ 43.Qxf2 Nxf2 44.Kxf2 Be5 45.g4 Kg7 and White resigned.

(I guess he was praying for a miracle like 45...g5?? 46.Bd3+ Kg7 47.Bxb1 =) **0-1**

Li Zuhao, Luke (New Zealand) – Al Awadhi (Kuwait)

World Chess Olympiad (Open) Istanbul

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 b6 6.f3 Nc6 7.e4 Ba6 8.e5 Ng8 9.Nh3 Na5 10.Qa4 Qc8 11.Bd3 Ne7 12.Bg5 Nd5 I don't think this is very good.
13.Nf2 h6 14.cxd5 Bxd3 15.Nxd3 hxg5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.Qc2 Qb7 18.O-O O-O-O 19.c4 g4 I don't think that I should have allowed this move to be played. **20.Nf4 gxf3 21.Rxf3 g5 22.Ng6 Nc6 23.Qe4 Rh7 24.Raf1** I was feeling pretty confident in my position by this point. **24...Ne7 25.d5 d6 26.exd6 Nxg6 27.Qxe6+ Kb8 28.Qxg6 cxd6 29.Rf8 Rd7 30.Rxd8+ Rxd8 31.Qxg5 Qc7 32.Rc1 Qc5+ 33.Kh1 Kc7 34.Qg3 Re8 35.h3 b5 36.Qf4 Kb6 37.cxb5 Qxd5 38.Rc6+ Kxb5 39.Rxd6 Qc5 40.a4+ Ka5 41.Qd2+** I win the Black Queen for my rook in all lines. 1-0

Round 5 we played the blind team. This probably conjures up images that we'll trick them, they won't see everything etc. Nothing is further from the truth, these folks can play. Their top two boards are IMs and the rest are strong FMs. Anyway, we get to the venue, and unlike previous years, everyone is squashed up on one long table, boards for us, the blind guys have their own boards in between. They have volunteers sitting in the chairs opposite us and they move the pieces for them. So we move, call out our move and press the clock. They make that move on their board and do their score-sheet thing (lots of ways and types for this, depending on blindness). When they move, they call out their move, their volunteer moves the piece and we go to work. Unlike a usual chess game, this

can get rather noisy. Paul played the most impaired player, he also had a dictaphone and would call back the moves when Paul called them. Paul played an English, got a good Russell type position and proceeded to play some inexplicable bad moves. A couple of bad moves with the Queen allowed Black's game to improve and then suddenly an exchange drops, a loss was soon to follow. I played a Dutch again, and lost again (maybe this opening needs an adjustment ☺). Got my pieces slightly tied up and lost/sacrificed a pawn, he played soundly, we finally got to a Queen endgame and the outside past pawn was one square faster than my central pawn, game over. Nic played a g3 Queens Indian setup, gave his opponent hanging pawns and started swapping pieces to get to the endgame. He safely held a draw. Russell played his Alekines against the IM, he was holding and hoping for a Bishop ending where he could torture him all night, but couldn't manage it and the King and Pawn ending was drawn. Another loss 3-1.

So at half way, we needed to take stock. Russell and Nic seemed to be doing the business and playing solidly. I was beating the mugs and getting positionally crunched by the good players. Paul was in free fall, his confidence seemed to be gone. Luke was playing his usual self and just getting on as juniors do. So Paul and I had to have a look at ourselves on the rest day and try and find the fight. Up till now, Paul, Luke, Natasha and I had eaten/drank something that was causing everything to pass straight through the system. Wasn't pleasant, but didn't seem to be too harmful. Rooming with Luke, he likes to set the temperature of the room at 12 degrees, I had a cold, so

new rules in the second half. I was going to control the temperature from now on ☺. Everyone else seemed all good.

Round 6 and we had the Faeroe Islands, a team pretty evenly matched rating wise. It was my turn to stand down. It was pretty good to get a double rest as I could finally cleanse my system of this bug and focus on getting some form for the second half. The games started solidly, Paul won a pawn early against his Be7 French opponent, although he missed what the team thought was some good ways to put the game beyond doubt, he still had everything under control. The winning approach we felt was to sacrifice the Exchange and tie Black up completely and win another pawn and slowly the game. Paul seemed to drift, missed something and allowed his opponent to win an Exchange and remain with a deadly outside passed h pawn, game over – a tragic loss for Paul. Luke played his Nc6 French against the Winawer, his opponent took too much time working out his plans. Luke played aggressively and his opponent missed his chances and blundered in time trouble – a nice win to keep Luke on track for his FM title. Nic was on the Black side of a Qc2 Nimzo, he improved from an earlier game he had played and this seemed to stop all his opponents preparation who then started to play aggressively, pulled back then sacrificed a piece. But Nic could defend easily and notched up another win. This left Nic in good shape for his IM norms as well. Russell played solidly and soundly in his English, game was very even and everything was swapping off into what was assumed to be a drawn endgame. Right at the time control his opponent played the

mistake Ke6 instead of Ke7, this allowed a pretty combination that would have won. However, Russell had turned off from calculating, he'd seen a way to force repetition and get a draw, which guaranteed us a win of the match, unlucky, but 2.5-1.5 was still a good win.

**(2) John Arni Nilssen (Faeroe Islands)
(2372) - Nicolas Croad (New Zealand)
(2255)**

World Chess Olympiad (Open) Istanbul
(6), 03.09.2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 This was a surprise. As far as I could gather from the record White had almost always played, the Kasparov variation of the Nimzo-Indian. From the course of this game I believe he selected the Classical variation in order to play some improvement over a previous game. **4...0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 d6** The main reason I think White was targeting a previous game is that he started thinking about his moves around here. **7.Bg5 Nbd7 8.e3 b6 9.Ne2 Ba6?!** In retrospect the bishop is missplaced here. Yes, Black should put pressure on c4, but the bishop is not comfortable on a6, and on b7 it makes development with Bd3 difficult. [The position would be roughly level after 9...Bb7 10.Qc2 c5=] **10.Qb3 c5 11.Rd1 Rc8 12.Qa4 Bb7 13.Nc3** [Pawn looting simply loses of course 13.Qxa7?? Bc6!-+ and there is nothing to be done about Ra8.] **13...Bc6 14.Qc2** [The White queen is clearly missplaced after 14.Qa6 cxd4 15.exd4 (15.Rxd4?? Nc5 16.Qxa7 Ra8-+) 15...Qc7µ] **14...cxd4 15.Rxd4** [15.exd4 d5³ Black has some positional advantages to play against.] **15...Qc7 16.Qd1 Qb7?!** Of course Black wants to create another

weakness before breaking in the centre, however I missjudged the chances White gets in return. [16...d5 17.cxd5 Nxd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.e4 Bc6=] **17.f3?!** [Black needs to make some kind of compromise after 17.Rxd6 Bxg2 (Or 17...h6 18.Bxf6 Nxf6 19.f3 Qe7 20.Rd2 Nh5² and Black has some play for the sacrificed pawn, but White has every reason to have confidence.) 18.Rg1 Bxf1 19.Kxf1 and Blacks king will come under a dangerous attack here.] **17...d5 18.cxd5 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.e4 Bc6 21.b4** [White should restrain his ambitions to 21.Be2 e5 22.Rd2 Nc5= and the bishop pair offers White a tiny edge.] **21...b5 22.Be2 Nb6** It was just by accident, but I didn't anticipate White's next move so I didn't bother to oppose it. [Black clearly has equality after 22...e5 23.Rd2 Nb6=] **23.e5?!** At the time it appeared that this offers White some initiative, but in retrospect I think it creates too many holes in the White position. **23...Nd5** Of course Black would love to exchange the light squared bishops, but its not so simple to achieve this. [After 23...Bd5 24.Bxb5 Bc4 25.Bxc4 Nxc4² The position has lost so much structure, so exchanging the bishop loses its point.] **24.Qd2 Qc7 25.f4 Bb7 26.0-0** [Not 26.Bxb5?? Qc1+ 27.Qxc1 (27.Kf2 Qxh1-+) 27...Rxc1+ 28.Rd1 Rxd1+ 29.Kxd1 Nc3+-+] **26...a6 27.Bd3 Qc3** Of course if Black can exchange the queens then its going to be hopeless for White, he can't defend his weaknesses. Whites game depends on developing a kingside initiative. **28.Qf2 h6!** Exactly the right moment to kick the bishop. The unexpected opening had taken its toll and I was a bit short of time here. [Black comes under a possibly deadly attack after 28...Qxa3

29.f5² as the bishop is covering c1 here, preventing Black's main defensive idea.] **29.Bxh6** [After 29.Bh4 Qxa3 30.f5 is a much stronger prospect, as some rooks are exchanged after 30...Rc1μ; Its important that White can't leave the bishop in place with 29.Qh4?? Qxd4+ 30.Kh1 Qxd3-+; Also quite harmless is 29.h4 hxg5 30.hxg5 g6-+] **29...gxh6 30.f5** [White would love to transfer the queen to the kingside, even at the cost of a rook, but the problem is all the bits are dropping off with check 30.Qg3+ Kh8 31.Qh4 Qxd4+ 32.Kh1 (32.Rf2 Rc1+ 33.Bf1 Rxf1+ 34.Kxf1 Qd1#) 32...Qxd3-+] **30...exf5 31.Qg3+?** [Black is much better after 31.Qxf5! Qxd4+ 32.Kh1 Qxd3 33.Qxd3 Rc3μ though the material imbalance offers White chances here.; During the game I spent a nervous moment looking at 31.Rxd5 Bxd5 32.Qxf5 Qd4+ 33.Kh1 as I had not noticed that its possible here to play 33...Rfd8 (I incorrectly evaluated the variation 33...Qxd3 34.Qxd3 Rfd8+- and White just is winning.) 34.Qh7+ Kf8 35.Qxh6+ Ke8 36.Qh8+ Kd7! (Over the board it would have taken some guts to select anything other than 36...Ke7 37.Qf6+ Ke8=) 37.e6+ Ke7! 38.Qxd4 Bxg2+ 39.Kxg2 Rxd4-+ and Black is winning.; The White attack collapses after 31.Bxf5?? Qe3-+ exchanging queens.] **31...Kh8 32.Qh4 Rc6!** While there were alternative defensive moves here, this was very clearly the best way to resolve Blacks difficulties, as the others tie up the Black pieces. **33.Bxf5** [33.Rxd5 Rg6 34.Bxf5 and the Black pieces come to life. 34...Rxc2+ 35.Kh1 (35.Kxc2 Bxd5+ 36.Be4 Qc2+! 37.Kf3 Qd3+!-+) 35...Qd2!! (suggested by Luke in our team post-mortem) 36.Rxd2 Rg4+! 37.Rg2 Bxg2+ 38.Kg1 Rxh4-+]

33...Qe3+! 34.Kh1 Rc1 35.Rdd1 Rxd1 36.Rxd1 Qg5 At this point White took a long forlorn look at his position. I think he was waiting for some of the games beside us to be resolved. Eventually he held out his hand in resignation. **0-1**

Round 7 we had Jordan, another team rated pretty much equivalent to us. Paul was resting, and it was my turn again. Luckily the other three players were doing OK, it was Paul and I who were struggling. We agreed that we would swap and leave the others playing right through. Russell played the IM and a Petrosian Queens Indian was played. Russell diffused all White's threats and was ready for any e4 breaks, his opponent tried it anyway and Russell came out with a good position. It wasn't long before he won a pawn, then a second and the Queens were off. His time crept up and couldn't evaluate a narrow path to victory with the same coloured Bishops and his connected pawns on the side of the board – bad luck, but still a draw. Nic played some nice preparation against his opponents Benko, a positional piece sacrifice for 2 pawns, he was never in trouble and it was only a question of whether his opponent could defend with the only moves. Nic managed to win his opponents Queen, but it was for a Rook and Bishop with only pawns on the Kingside, he set up a barricade and Nic couldn't make any progress – a draw. My opponent played 1. Nf3 and I decided to revert to a Queens Indian, Black got comfortable equality and I started to make progress. I sacrificed an Exchange for a pawn, had the two Bishops and a past d pawn, but when I had the chance to swap Queens and keep a good plus, I tried to

keep them on for an attack on the dark squares. My opponent sacrificed the Exchange back and caught my King undefended and forced me to resign short of being mated, a tragic loss. Luckily Luke was playing like a man possessed, he played a Bf4 Queens Gambit, isolated his opponents Queen pawn, swapped the Queens and proceeded to gain space over the board. The mistake came and Luke pounced, closed out the game in style for another nice win. So an unlucky draw really 2-2, but better than a loss.

Li Zuhao, Luke (New Zealand)– Aboudi M (Jordan)

World Chess Olympiad (Open) Istanbul

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Bf4 Nf6 5.e3 O-O 6.Nf3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.Bd3 Bb4+ 11.Nd2 Nc6 12.O-O d4 13.e4 Bd6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Nc4 Qf4 16.Qc1 Qxc1 17.Raxc1 Rd8 18.f4 f6 19.a3 Be6 20.b4 Rac8 21.h3 Kf8 22.e5 Bxc4 23.Rxc4 fxe5 24.Bxh7 exf4 25.Bf5 Rb8 26.Rxf4 Ke7 27.b5 d3 28.bxc6 d2 29.Rce4+ Kd6 30.Rd4+ Kc5 31.Rxd2 Rxd2 32.c7 Rf8 33.c8=R+ Kd5 1-0

Round 8 we had UAE – we decided to switch and play me with Whites (I had played four Blacks and Paul had played four Whites, neither doing well with these colours). So, Paul would rest and I would play as White today with him being Black tomorrow. Russell got the GM, he played an early d5 system against his English, Black managed to get Bh3 in and then just pushed his h pawn up the board and opened the Rook file. Once he had everything sorted, he sacrificed the Exchange and Russell was compelled to give another

piece to hold off the attack. The two Bishops for the Rook and pawn were too strong and Russell lost. Nic played the same guy he played in the last Olympiad, and it was the same opening. Nic tried a different version of the Queens Gambit and his opponent got attacking ideas and pushed his h pawn up to h5, however, once Nic sorted out his position, he proceeded to win the pawn and then swap the bits down to an endgame which he won nicely. My opponent played a Nimzo, this surprised me and I assumed they had done some preparation. He played the sharp c5 system and I have worked on it, but not sure what he had prepared, I deviated with the quiet Bd2 line. He sunk into deep thought and it was obvious that they hadn't worked on this line. The game was evenly balanced, but I had a chance to win a pawn towards the end, missed it and the game petered out to a draw – still, I had stopped the rot. Luke wouldn't listen to advice and chose not to play the French and would try out the Ruy Lopez on the chance he could get in a Marshall Attack. His opponent deviated early, and although Luke got d5 in, he didn't play accurately and his opponent sacrificed an Exchange for two pawns and Luke couldn't hold the game, a tragic loss. He learnt the lesson that the Olympiad is not the place to try out openings, the French is solid and he should play it.

Li Zuhao, Luke (New Zealand)– Khouri L(UAE)

World Chess Olympiad (Open) Istanbul

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 b5 This move is already inaccurate. d6 followed with a quick g6 was better. *6.Bb3 Be7 7.O-O O-O 8.a4 Bb7 9.Nc3 b4 10.Ne2 d5 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Ng3 g6* This

move was completely the wrong idea and my position starts falling apart. Instead f6 is about equal. **13.Re1 Bf6 14.Ne4 Bg7 15.Bg5 f6 16.Nc5 Bc8 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 Na5** was my best shot and is nearly equal, but I underestimated an exchange sack. **18.Rxe5 c6 19.Rxd5 cxd5 20.Bd2 a5 21.Qf3 Kh8 22.Qxd5 Bf5 23.c3 bxc3 24.Bxc3 Qb6 25.d4 Rfe8 26.Re1 Rxe1+ 27.Bxe1 Re8 28.Bc3 +/- Qc7 29.Qf7 Qc8 30.Bc4 Bc2? 31.Ne6 +/- Rg8 32.Nxg7 Rxg7 33.Qxf6 Qxc4 34.d5 1-0**

Noaman Omar (United Arab Emirates) (2322) - Nicolas Croad (New Zealand) (2255)

World Chess Olympiad (Open) Istanbul (8), 05.09.2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.e4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 We played once previously in the 12th round of the 39th Olympiad. Fortunately this time White was out for a little more than he got from our previous encounter. [5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 c6 7.e3 Bf5 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.Qxd3 a5 11.e4 dxe4 12.Qxe4+ Qe7 13.0-0-0 0-0= 1/2-1/2 Omar - Croad, Olympiad Kanty Mansiysk 2010 (40) was our previous game. Black has roughly equal chances here.] **5...h6 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 7.e3 0-0 8.Rc1 c6 9.h4** I was totally unprepared for this move, and White managed to give me the impression it was totally unprepared. I suspect given its pedigree he had prepared it however. **9...g6 10.h5?!** [During the game I was more concerned about the possibility of 10.g4 Nd7 (10...Bg7 11.g5 h5 12.Ne5 Looks a bit dubious as eventually White can always organise a sacrifice on h5.) 11.g5 hxg5 12.hxg5 Bxg5= when White has compensation for the sacrificed material.] **10...g5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Bd3**

Re8 13.Qc2 Nd7 14.Bf5 Nb6! At this stage I was quite satisfied with the opening. Black gets a knight to d6, and this piece is so good in the queens gambit that there are really no more problems after this. **15.0-0 Bxf5 16.Qxf5 Nc4** I tried to leave this knight on c4 as long as possible. Its not possible to capture on b2 in almost any situation, but on c4 it prevents counterplay by attacking e3. **17.Nh2 Bg7 18.Qc2?!** [The queen is well placed on the kingside, and it should have stayed there to tie the Black pieces up. 18.Ng4 Nd6 19.Qf3 Re6?] **18...Qd7 19.Na4 f5 20.Rfe1 Qf7** At this moment Black's plan is clarified. The h5 pawn is weak and can't be defended. **21.Nf1 Nd6 22.Qd1** [White doesn't benefit from the weakened kingside pawns at all after 22.Ng3 f4 23.exf4 gxf4 24.Nf1 Qxh5] **22...g4 23.Nc5 Qxh5 24.Ng3 Qf7 25.Ne2 Bf8** This move looked a bit clumsy to me at the time. Maybe there is no real harm done. **26.g3** [I thought Black might have trouble re-locating the queen in the variation 26.Nd3 Ne4 27.Ne5 Qh7 28.Nf4 but its obvious Black has retained most of his advantages here.] **26...Ne4 27.Nxe4 Rxe4 28.Kg2 Bd6** The bishop on d6 keeps the knight under control. I didn't think White could offer to swap it, so it lacks good squares. **29.Rh1 Re6** Its fairly obvious Black should double rooks behind the h-pawn and threaten h6-h5-h4. **30.Qc2 Kg7 31.Rh2 Rh8 32.Rch1 h5 33.Kf1 Reh6 34.Qb3 Kg6 35.Ke1 R8h7** At first I didn't see where to place the Black king, but it still looks missplaced on the kingside, eventually I figured it out. **36.Qd3 Kg7 37.Kd2 Kf8 38.Kc2 Ke8 39.a3 Kd8 40.Kb1 Kc8 41.Qc2 Kb8 42.Nc1 h4!** and now the break is prepared. **43.Rxh4 Rxh4 44.gxh4** [44.Rxh4 Rxh4 45.gxh4 Be7 is

similar to the game.] **44...Be7 45.Nd3 Rxb4 46.Rxb4 Bxb4 47.Ne5 Qe6 48.b4** [A better try was 48.f3! and here Black has a difficult choice. Certainly the position is promising in all cases, but at the board it was not clear which path was best and if it was good enough. 48...gxf3 **a)** 48...Bg3 49.f4μ (49.fxg4 fxg4-+); **b)** 48...g3 49.f4μ; **c)** But not 48...Bf6? 49.fxg4 Bxe5 (49...fxg4? 50.Qg6=) 50.gxf5³ when Black has lost almost all his advantage.; 49.Qh2 f2! 50.Nd3+ (50.Nxc6+? Kc8 51.Qb8+ Kd7 52.Qxb7+ Kd6-+) 50...Kc8 51.Nxf2 Bg5³) **48...Be7 49.Kb2 Bd6** [I noticed the impending sacrifice, but decided there was really nothing which could be done about it 49...Bd8 50.Qc5 Bc7?? 51.Qf8+ Qc8 52.Nd7+-] **50.Nxc6+** It appeared quite likely White would try this sacrifice. [There are few difficulties after 50.f4 Bxe5 51.fxe5 Qg6-+] **50...bxc6 51.Qxc6 f4** I allowed the sacrifice on c6 because this move allows Black to take over the initiative. **52.a4** [52.exf4 Qe2+ 53.Kb3 Qc4+ 54.Qxc4 dxc4+ 55.Kxc4 Bxf4-+] **52...fxe3 53.fxe3** [53.a5 exf2 54.a6 Qe2+ 55.Ka3 Bxb4+-+] **53...Qf6** [As it turns out Black's king escapes after 53...g3 54.a5 g2 55.a6 Qe7 56.Qb5+ Kc8 57.Qc6+ Kd8-+] **54.a5 Be7 55.Qxd5 Qf2+ 56.Kb3 Qxe3+ 57.Ka4 Qg5 58.Qd7 a6!** Threatening Qb5+ **59.d5 g3 60.Qe8+** [60.Qc6 Qf6 61.Qe8+ Bd8 62.Qe2 Be7-+] **60...Bd8 61.Qc6 g2 62.Qxa6 Qxd5** More accurate than immediately queening as it prevents further checks. **63.Qg6 Qd1+ 64.Kb5 g1Q** and since White has no decent checks he simply resigned. **0-1**

Round 9 and we had White against Angola. The draw wasn't kind to us as we

had planned for Paul to play with Black, wasn't to be and he had White again. He was up for the challenge and his opponent was the unrated player, but had to be in the 2200's as he was sitting between players of that calibre in their team. It was a Sicilian and Paul went for it, castled Queenside and sent the pawns forward onto the King still in the middle. His opponent calmly carried on with his Queenside attack. When his King got to g8 and was safe, it was his turn. Paul wasn't up to the exact moves he needed to find and Black's attack broke through, a bad loss. Russell played a big manoeuvring English, didn't have much and made a mistake and lost a pawn, but his opponent tried to swap all the pieces off at the same time, not recognising that he had no activity and it would be an easy draw for Russell. However his opponent then started to play poorly, Russell proceeded to completely outplay him in the endgame, win his pawn back, then another and finally the game. Nic had Black in a Catalan than turned into what looked like a King's Indian Attack where he was invading on the Queenside and his opponent was trying to win with a Kingside attack. His opponent sacrificed an Exchange to try to get to the White squares and the King. One bad move from Nic near the time control allowed his opponent in. There was a tricky defence that would force a draw, Nic missed it and played a line that was -8 on the engines, right after the time control his opponent sunk into thought to see how to win it, instead of playing the winning line, he chose one of the worst moves and the game swung to +8, Nic didn't give him another chance and crashed through for the point. Luke returned to the French (thank goodness), he got easy

equality and the game swapped off into the same coloured Bishop and pawns. Luke turned down a draw and moved pieces for ages, his opponent then turned down Luke's draw offer, just when they get down to the last pawns, his opponent makes the only losing move and Luke picked up a point. So a 3-1 win to what could easily have been a 3-1 loss, amazing turnaround by the boys. Of course that meant I'd have Black again the next day, pray for an e4 player ☺.

Joao Simoes (Angola) (2275) - Nicolas Croad (New Zealand) (2255)

World Chess Olympiad (Open) Istanbul (9), 06.09.2012

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 c6 7.Qc2 b6 8.Nbd2 Nbd7 9.e4 Bb7 10.e5 Ne8 11.cxd5 cxd5 [Probably a better choice for this game would have been 11...exd5 and Black can always get some counterplay with c6-c5.] **12.Re1** Reaching what could be described as a dull position of the Closed Catalan. However this game manages to get very, hot. **12...Rc8 13.Qd1 Nc7** [Ideally Black would just develop the queen on the c-file, but after 13...Qc7 14.Qe2 (I would have been satisfied with the book position 14.Nf1 Qc2 15.Qxc2 Rxc2 16.Ne3 Rc6 17.Bd2=) 14...Qc2 15.h4 Nb8 16.Qe3² The queens are still on the board, White will finish developing and now the queen is missplaced on c2.] **14.Nf1 Na6 15.a3 Nab8 16.Bd2 Nc6 17.h4 Na5 18.Ng5!** At this moment, something about the look in my opponents eyes, or maybe the course of Paul Garbett's game on board 3, something told me to be extremely nervous about my kingside. **18...Nc4 19.Bc1** [Here 19.Qc2!? g6 20.Bc3 Bxg5 21.hxg5 Qxg5 offers lots

of interesting compensation to White.] **19...h6!** Otherwise white plays Qd3, forcing g7-g6 a worse kingside weakness. **20.Nh3 Qe8!** It turns out that the queen is very well placed here, in this position. The main point is to play f7-f5 at some moment when the White queen is on h5, avoiding en-passant capture. **21.Nf4** [21.Qh5? f5!]³ **21...Nb8 22.Nh2 Nc6 23.Bf1 Kh8 24.b3 N4a5 25.Ng4 Rg8** [In the game, I was concerned with the impending assault on the kingside, and so I wanted to play 25...Nxb3 however at this moment it seemed that after 26.Nxh6 Black might just be lost, (Its obvious that Black is equal to better after 26.Qxb3 Nxd4 27.Qd3 Nc2 28.Bd2 Nxa1 29.Rxa1³) 26...gxh6 (Its too difficult to fathom positions like 26...Ncx4 27.Qh5) 27.Qh5= Of course it would be foolish to enter this position as White definitely has perpetual check already.] **26.Be3 Nb8 27.b4 Nc4 28.Bc1 a5 29.bxa5 bxa5 30.Bd3 Ba6 31.Bb1** If white gets a queen to the b1-h7 diagonal, its game over. **31...Nb6** But fortunately this is not possible. **32.Ra2!** White is still playing for the full point, and here he finds a use for the un-used rook which keeps the attack going. **32...Na4! 33.Rc2 Nc3 34.Rxc3 Rxc3 35.Qd2 Rc8** [I also considered an immediate sacrifice of the exchange in return, but it was clear white would be better 35...Rxc1 36.Rxc1 Bxa3 37.Qc2 g6 38.Nf6+.] **36.Nh5** [36.Qxa5? Qb5!µ forces a queen exchange.] **36...Qb5! 37.Bb2** [After the game Hilton asked me what happens after 37.Nxh6 in fact I had noticed this shot 37...Qxb1! 38.Nxf7+ Kh7-+; Or instead 37.Nxg7 Qxb1! 38.Nf6 Bxf6 39.exf6 Qg6+ and Black is winning.] **37...Bf8 38.Kh2** I believed White was planning Re3-f3 here. I was beginning to

feel in control of the game here, but after my next move **38...Nd7** he came up with **39.Qf4!** and I chickened out with **39...g6?** [Black had to play **39...Qxb2 40.Qxf7 Rc2!** which I saw, however this position is completely in-calculable, and I thought probably losing **41.Nf4 (41.Qg6 Rxf2+ 42.Nxf2 Qxf2+ 43.Kh3 Bf1+ 44.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 45.Kh2=)** **41...Bb5 42.Ng6+ Kh7 43.Nf4 Kh8=]** **40.Qxf7 Rg7 [40...Bg7?** **41.Nf4+-;** Equally hopeless now is **40...Qxb2 41.Nf4 Qb7 42.Nxg6+ Rxg6 43.Qxg6 Nb8 44.Qxe6+-]** **41.Nxg7 Bxg7 42.Qxg6?** [Now winning was **42.Bc1!! Qxb1 43.Bxh6+-** I guess this was a good point to **Kh2**, don't allow a capture on e1 with check.; **42.Qxe6 Nf8 43.Qd6 h5!?** **42...Nf8 43.Qh5 Qxb2 44.Kg2** [No good is **44.Nxh6 Qxf2+ 45.Kh3 Bf1+ 46.Rxf1 Qxf1+ 47.Kh2 Qxb1-+]** **44...Qd2!** and now its over, Black has everything defended. **45.Nxh6 Qxh6** [I wanted to play **45...Qxe1** but noticed after **46.Nf5+ Kg8** Black is mated, it turns out there was a defence, but actually I think its better not to allow unnecessary complications here (**46...Nh7-+)** **47.Ne7#]** **46.Qd1 Bb5 47.f4 Be8 48.Rf1 Bg6 49.g4 Bxb1 50.Qxb1 Ng6 51.h5 Nxf4+ 52.Kg3 Rc3+ 53.Kf2 Nh3+ 54.Kg2 Qd2+ 55.Kh1 Rc2** and since there is no decent way to stop mate on h2, White resigned. **0-1**

Round 10 we had Albania, this was a round full of drama. Russell had Black against the GM and rolled out his Alekines again. The GM took a pawn, but his King was stuck in the middle. Russell had serious threats, but as usual used up too much time, he missed some good ways to win, made a mistake and lost, a tragedy.

Luke played White against the Tarrasch Queens Gambit, he had a pull, but a lazy move in the endgame gave the advantage to his opponent. Luke swapped down to a Rook endgame a pawn down and showed he didn't know his Rook and Pawn theory. This stuff can't be made up at the board and lost what should have been an easy draw. I played a Noteboom, the boys had banned me from any openings or games where I could play f4 or f5 unless it was an endgame. The Noteboom surprised him, I held onto the pawn easily and when I started swapping off the bits, he exchanged a Rook and two Pawns for a Bishop and Knight. He obviously didn't know that 2 pieces don't like to defend against a Rook pawn as he then swapped the Queens next move, this was an easy win. Nic had the game where all the excitement was. He played his f3 Benko again, and at about move 10 his opponent went missing. It transpired that he had left the playing venue and got stopped trying to come back in. The clocks were stopped and the chief arbiter was called, Hilton wasn't about, so they dealt with it. Instead of defaulting the game, they gave the player a warning. Supposedly he claimed he was outside taking a smoke break, and yet this was round 10, and we had an outdoors area inside the playing centre for smokers – he being an IM would have known this....Anyway, the game continued, Nic had a difficult position but the computer liked it, but it was too hard to defend for a human, he then lost. Later when checking the rules, there was nonsense in there that they could give warnings for leaving the venue. To me, this is worse than not being seated at the start of the game, he could have been doing anything. This game was

especially important to Nic as a win would have given him his IM norms. Luke losing meant that he could no longer get his FM title either. So we lost the match 3-1 – not what was planned.

Round 11 we drew Zimbabwe, Nic needed a high rated player and a win to now get his norms. As Luke couldn't get his FM title, he would rest and let Paul have another crack. Unfortunately, we drew Black again which meant I got another Black and Paul therefore got a White. The news got worse, they rested their top rated player, meaning Nic got the 2200 odd player and therefore couldn't get the average he needed. The news was great for me though, finally an e4 player, the French would get a run. Looking at his games I saw he played a Kings Indian Attack and I had a very cunning line that should have forced him into a Tarrasch French (which he wouldn't know). The game started, he fell for the opening trap playing robotically, I won a pawn, swapped it into two Bishops and Rook vs two Rooks – easy win and mated him in the middle of the board. Russell played another Alekines, was always on the back foot and lost. Nic played against a Grunfeld and it looked like his opponent knew the theory better. Nic did get out of his difficulties and moved into an endgame which was drawn. Paul gave up his e4 and played a Torre attack. His opponent played it soundly and castled Queenside to avoid any attacks, slowly but surely the endgame was reached and a draw was finally agreed. So a 2-2 draw to finish the match. Unbelievable as this might sound, my opponent left the playing

venue during our game. I was unaware of it at the time and all kinds of discussions were going on behind me. Knowing my stance about this, Shaun Press was involved and knew I would expect to stop the clocks if I knew, they warned my opponent and hoped that I would win and the problem go away. Luckily for them I was winning and closed the game out. Amazing that we have never had issues, and here we had opponents leaving the venue on two consecutive rounds.

(9) Moyo,Dion - Steadman,Mike [C00]

Olympiad 2012, 10.09.2012

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Ng3 Bc5
Here is the tricky move, now White should transpose into a Tarrasch. **5.g3?** But this move just loses a pawn or the game.
5...dxe4 6.Ng5 [6.Nxe4 Nxe4 7.dxe4 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Bxf2; 6.dxe4 Ng4 7.Qe2 Bxf2+ 8.Kd1 Ne3+] **6...e3 7.fxe3 Bxe3 8.Ndf3 Bb6 9.Bf4 h6 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.dxe4 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 Nc6 13.Bb5 Bd7 14.c3 g5?** [14...0-0-0 15.Ke2 f5] **15.Ne5 0-0-0 16.Nxf7** [16.Nxd7 Rxd7 17.Rxd7 Kxd7 18.Be5 Rg8 19.Bf6 a6 20.Ba4 Bc5 21.Ke2 b5 22.Bc2 Bd6 23.Rd1 Ke8 This would have been a pain had he seen it, g5 was a lazy move. Black will unravel and win in the end, but not necessary.] **16...gxf4 17.Nxd8 Rxd8 18.gxf4 Rf8 19.Rf1 Be3 20.f5 exf5 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.exf5 Rxf5 23.Ke2 Re5 24.Rf8+ Kb7 25.Kf3 Be6 26.h4 Bc5 27.Rh8 h5 28.Rdd8 Bxa2 29.Rde8 Rf5+ 30.Ke4 Bb1# 0-1**

So the event was over, we ended up 97th, was rated 91st – so not a great performance. We faded at the end, a win in the last would have lifted us up the table to about 86th.

Russell had a good event, never easy on board 1, you are really taking it for the team members beneath you. He scored 3.5 from 10, but had a rating performance of 2311. As usual though, Russell's real enemy was his time management, he left a number of points behind because he just did not have the time left to close – you can't play good chess in 30 second increments. Nic was the star, he just fell short of his IM norms and scored 6 from 10 with a rating performance of 2297. I came home with a rush, but the start and middle were horrible. I scrambled to 50% 4.5 from 9 with a rating performance of 2125, not great, but started to turn the corner at the end. Paul had a horrible event, he just couldn't buy a trick and 1.5 from 7 was poor by his standards. Luke had a great first Olympiad, he stumbled at the end and missed his FM title, but he got some good lessons from here and plenty he can take back to work on with his coach.

Otago CC Hosts the 2012 South Island Championship

By Quentin Johnson

This year's event was hosted by the Otago Chess Club in Dunedin and run as part of both the Yulgilbar – Think Big Oceania Grand Prix and the Myer Tan NZ Grand Prix. The field of 31 was strengthened immensely by the participation of three overseas players from the George Trundle Masters held the previous week. GM Darryl Johansen and IM Gary Lane from Australia and IM Peng Kong Chan from Singapore made the journey down and were easily the top three seeds. FMs Bob Smith and Stephen Lukey were among those expected to provide close competition. Lesser known quantities were current Otago champion Bob Wansink, playing in an open event after a long layoff, 15 year old German student Thorben Koop, who had performed at 2700 then 2000 at his last two events, and former local, NM Tony Dowden making the trip over from Tasmania. Of these only Lukey and Wansink were eligible for the South Island title, with a few hopeful former champions lurking outside the top eight.

Round 1

Only two draws were conceded by the top half, though it should have been more. Canterbury junior, Tim Rains, needlessly allowed Quentin Johnson off with a

perpetual, thus passing up an opportunity for an unbeatable claim to the DD Smash upset prize, while Peter Fraemohs won from a worse ending against Terry Duffield.

Round 2

One of the favourites fell when Chan blundered a rook in a level ending against Fraemohs. Johansen was not unduly troubled by Dowden's pawn sacrifice on top board, but Lane had to work hard on board 2 to win a drawn double rook ending against WFM Helen Milligan. Lukey conjured up a rook sacrifice to mate Dan Dolejs, while Wansink, Bob Smith and Koop rounded out the group on 2/2.

Round 3

Against Bob Smith, Johansen was again the recipient of a pawn sacrifice - and again was able to keep the material and beat off the attack. Lane's control of d5 soon told after a Lukey error in a Sveshnikov Sicilian. Wansink's rook and pawns prevailed over Koop's two rooks in a prolonged ending, while Fraemohs stayed with the leaders after turning around a precarious king position against Johnson to win in the ending. Further down the table Milligan suffered an upset loss to Mike Roberts when she lost the base of her pawn chain, while Ross Jackson sacrificed

unsoundly against Duffield and then lost on time. Local juniors Ben Clayton and Leighton Nicholls both played good rook endings, respectively drawing with Dolejs and beating Ross Black.

Round 3.2, Lane, Gary - Lukey, Stephen
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5
9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c4 b4 12.Nc2
a5 13.g3 O-O 14.Bg2 g6 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6
16.O-O Bb7 17.Qd3 Rad8 18.a3 bxa3
19.Rxa3 Rb8 20.Rfa1 Rfd8 21.Qe3 Qe7
22.Rd3 Ba6 23.b3 Qc7 24.h4 a4 25.bxa4
Bxc4 26.Rc3 Ba6 27.Qg5 Bb7 28.Nb4
Qd7? 29.Nd5 Kg7 30.Qf6+ Kg8 31.h5
gxh5 32.Qh6 1-0

Round 3.4, Fraemohs, Peter - Johnson, Quentin
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 c5 4.f3 Qa5+
5.c3 Nf6 6.d5 e6 7.dxe6 fxe6 8.Nd2 d5
9.e4 Be7 10.Nb3 Qb6 11.Qc2 Nc6 12.exd5
exd5 13.a4 a6 14.Ne2 O-O 15.Be3 d4
16.a5 Qd8 17.cxd4 cxd4 18.Qc4+ Kh8
19.Bxd4 Bb4+ 20.Bc3 Ne5 21.Qd4 Nd3+
22.Kd2 Be6 23.Qxd3 Bxc3+ 24.bxc3
Bxb3 25.Qxd8 Rfxd8+ 26.Nd4 Rac8
27.Rb1 Bd5 28.Bd3 Rc5 29.Ra1 Nh5
30.g3 Nf6 31.Rhe1 Re8 32.Rxe8+ Nxe8
33.Re1 Nd6 34.Re5 Rxa5 35.Ke3 b6
36.Nf5 Nxf5+ 37.Bxf5 g6 38.Bd3 Kg7
39.c4 Bxc4 40.Rxa5 Bxd3 41.Rd5 Bc4
42.Rd6 a5 43.Rxb6 a4 44.Rb7+ Kg8
45.Ra7 Bb3 46.Kd4 g5 47.Ke5 Bd1
48.Kf6 Bxf3 49.Rxa4 g4 50.Rd4 h5
51.Kg6 Kf8 52.Kxh5 1-0

Round 4

Wansink defended a KID Averbakh to hold the draw against Johansen, utilising

analysis by his opponent published in NZ Chess! This allowed Lane to take the sole lead by outplaying Fraemohs and end his winning run. Chan, Lukey, Bob Smith and Koop all won to stay in touch with the leaders. Lower down, Johnson blundered a piece and was lucky to bamboozle Nicholls in the ending, Dolejs achieved an interesting fortress with R+N against Duffield's Q, and Hamish Gold attacked vigorously to inflict Jackson's third loss in a row.

Round 4.1, Johansen, Darryl - Wansink, Robert

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Be2
O-O 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 Nbd7 8.Qd2 c5 9.d5
Kh7 10.Nf3 b5 11.cxb5 a6 12.O-O axb5
13.Bxb5 Qa5 14.Bc6 Rb8 15.h3 Qb4
16.Qc2 Qxb2 17.Qxb2 Rxb2 18.Rab1
Rc2 19.Rfc1 Rxc1+ 20.Bxc1 Ba6 21.Bb5
Bxb5 22.Rxb5 Rb8 23.Rxb8 Nxb8 24.Kf1
Nfd7 25.Nb5 Nb6 26.Nd2 Kg8 27.Ke2
Kf8 28.Nc7 N8d7 29.Kd3 c4+ 30.Kc2 Nc5
31.f3 Nd3 32.Nxc4 Nxc1 33.Nxb6 Nxa2
34.Nd7+ Kg8 35.Nb5 Nb4+ 36.Kd2 h5
37.Nb8 Bf6 38.Nc6 Na6 39.f4 Nc5 40.Ke3
Nd7 41.g3 Kf8 42.Na3 Nb6 43.Kd3 Ke8
44.Nc4 Nd7 45.e5 dxe5 46.fxe5 Bg5
47.Kd4 Bc1 48.e6 fxe6 49.dxe6 Nf8
50.Kd5 Bg5 51.N6e5 Bf6 52.Nf7 g5
53.Nd2 Ng6 54.Ne4 h4 55.Nxf6+ exf6
56.gxh4 Nxh4 57.Nd6+ Kd8 58.Ne4 Ke7
59.Ng3 f5 60.Ke5 g4 61.Nxf5+ Nxf5
62.hxg4 1/2-1/2

Round 4.6, Koop, Thorben - Roberts, Michael

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Be7 4.Nf3 d6 5.c3
O-O 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.O-O c6 8.Bb3 Qc7
9.Re1 Nc5 10.Bc2 Rd8 11.Qe2 b5 12.Nf1
a5 13.Ng3 g6 14.Ng5 Ne6 15.Nxe6 Bxe6

16.f4 Bg4 17.Qf2 Kh8 18.Be3 Rg8 19.h3
Bc8 20.Rad1 Ne8 21.d4 Bh4 22.fxe5 dxe5
23.Qf3 Bf6 24.d5 Bg7 25.Rf1 Nd6
26.dxc6 Be6 27.Bg5 Ne8 28.Nf5 gxf5
29.exf5 f6 30.fxe6 fxf5 31.Qe4 Nf6
32.Rxf6 Bxf6 33.Rd7 Qb6+ 34.Kh1 Rg6
35.Rxh7+ 1-0

Round 4.14, Gold, Hamish - Jackson, L.Ross

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Nbd7
5.Nbd2 c5 6.c3 b6 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.O-O Be7
9.Ne5 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 O-O 11.Qf3 g6
12.Rae1 Nd7 13.Bf4 Nf6 14.Bh6 Re8
15.h4 Ne4 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4
18.Qxe4 cxd4 19.exd4 Bxh4 20.Bd2 Bg5
21.f4 Bf6 22.Qf3 Qd7 23.g4 Qd5 24.Qh3
Qxa2 25.Re2 Bg7 26.Rh2 h6 27.f5 g5
28.f6 Bf8 29.Bxg5 Bd6 30.Qxh6 Bxh2+
31.Kxh2 Qxb2+ 32.Bd2 Qxd2+ 33.Qxd2
Kh7 34.Rf3 Rh8 35.Qg5 Rag8 36.Rh3# 1-0

Round 5

There was an outbreak of short draws on the top boards as players sought to conserve energy mid-tournament. Lane-Johansen was 13 moves, while Wansink-Lukey lasted 11. This allowed Chan to join the group in second place in a miniature over Koop, who got his queenside pieces in a tangle. Bob Smith also caught up after Fraemohs jettisoned a pawn in the opening. Dowden-Johnson was an up-and-down game that ended prematurely when Johnson overstepped the time limit in a tricky minor piece ending. Nigel Cooper's piece sac was unsound against Edward Rains, while Bruce Gloistein caught Michael Roberts in a nasty trap. Jackson had narrowly avoided the bye this round

and began his comeback campaign with a win over local junior Carlssen van Rooyen. Leading Scores: Lane 4½; Johansen, Wansink, Chan & R. Smith 4; Lukey & Dowden 3½

Round 5.3, Koop, Thorben - Chan, Peng Kong

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.O-O Bf5
5.d3 e6 6.Nbd2 h6 7.Qe1 Bh7 8.e4 Be7
9.Qe2 O-O 10.b3 a5 11.a4 Na6 12.Ba3
Bxa3 13.Rxa3 Nb4 14.Ne1 dxe4 15.dxe4
Qd4 16.e5 Nfd5 17.Bxd5 cxd5 18.Nb1
Qb2 19.Ng2 Rfc8 0-1

Round 5.10, Roberts, Michael - Gloistein, Bruce

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3
Nbd7 6.Nf3 O-O 7.Rc1 e6 8.cxd5 Nxd5
9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Bd3 Nxc3 11.Rxc3 e5
12.Qc2 g6 13.O-O Re8 14.dxe5 Nxe5
15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Rc5 Qe7 17.b4 Bd7
18.Rc4 Rac8 19.h4 Qe5 20.Rc5 Qg7
21.h5 Re5 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.Rd1 Be6
24.a3 Re8 25.e4 Kh7 26.f4 Rxc5 27.Qxc5
Kg8 28.f5 b6 29.Qf2 gxf5 30.exf5 Bd5
31.Bf1 f6 32.Rd3 Re4 33.Be2 Kf8!
34.Rg3? Rxe2 35.Qf4 0-1

Round 6

Lane-Chan and Smith-Wansink were level games that ended in draws on the top two boards. Johansen caught Lane in the lead with a win over Lukey when the latter had to imprison his bishop on h8 for a critical part of the game after overlooking a tactic. Dowden picked off a pawn and won the ending against Edward Rains to stay with the leaders. Meanwhile, Johnson was the beneficiary of Gold's resignation in a drawn position, Gloistein-Dolejs produced the sort of chaos expected of these two, ending in a

win to Dolejs, and Duffield's Grob garnered a draw from Andrew Brockway. Jackson continued his revival, taking a point from Viv Smith in a game that cannot be deciphered past move ten. Leading Scores: Lane & Johansen 5; Wansink, Chan, R. Smith & Dowden 4½.

Round 6.3, Johansen, Darryl - Lukey, Stephen

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 O-O 6.Bg5 Na6 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.f3 a5 10.g4 c6 11.h4 cxd5 12.cxd5 Bd7 13.Nh3 b5 14.Nf2 Qb6 15.h5 Rac8 16.Ncd1 b4 17.Ne3 Bb5 18.h6 Bh8 19.O-O Rc7 20.Rfc1 Rfc8 21.b3 Bxe2 22.Qxe2 Ne8 23.Nc4 Qa6 24.Nd3 Nxd3 25.Qxd3 Bf6 26.Be3 Rb7 27.g5 Bh8 (to stop 28.Nxe5!) 28.Nb2 Qa8 29.Rxc8 Qxc8 30.Rc1 Qd8 31.Qa6 Rb8 32.Nc4 f6 33.Nxa5 Ra8 34.Nc6 Rxa6 35.Nxd8 Rxa2 36.Rc8 Ra1+ 37.Kg2 Ra2+ 38.Kf1 fxe5 39.Rb8 Bf6 40.Ne6 Kf7 41.Rb7+ Kg8 42.Bxe5 Rh2 43.Bxf6 Nxf6 44.Rg7+ Kh8 45.Rf7 Ng8 46.Rd7 Rxh6 47.Kg2 g5 48.Rxd6 Rg6 49.Rd8 h5 50.Re8 g4 51.d6 gxf3+ 52.Kf2 Rg2+ 53.Kxf3 Rd2 54.Rd8 Kh7 55.Ke3 Ra2 56.d7 Ra7 57.Rc8 1-0

Round 6.7, Johnson, Quentin - Gold, Hamish

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.Nc3 d6 6.Nf3 Nfd7 7.O-O e5 8.d5 a5 9.e4 Nc5 10.b3 h6 11.Nh4 Kh7 12.Qc2 Nbd7 13.Bb2 Nf6 14.a3 a4 15.b4 Nb3 16.Rad1 Nd4 17.Rxd4!? exd4 18.Nb5 Bd7 19.Nxd4 Qc8 20.f4 Bh3 21.f5 (21.e5!) Bxe2 22.fxe6+ fxe6 23.Nxe2 Ng4 24.Rxf8 Bxd4+ 25.Bxd4 Qxf8 26.Nf4 Ne5 27.Bxe5 dxe5 28.Ne6 Qf3 29.Qf2 Qxf2+ 30.Kxf2 Rc8 31.c5 Kg8 32.d6 cxd6 33.cxd6 Rc2+ 34.Ke1 Black resigns?? (34....Rc1+ =, as

35. Kd2? Rc6! -+) 1-0

Round 7

On top board Johansen as Black accepted an early draw offer from Chan. This allowed Lane to once more take the sole lead by beating Wansink after the latter finally faltered under pressure. Neither Dowden nor Bob Smith caught up with Johansen, as the latter accepted the former's draw offer. Fraemohs-Koop also ended in a draw, while Lukey beat Johnson to join Wansink and Fraemohs as the leading South Islanders. Duffield was the recipient of a blunder by Roberts to continue his good tournament, but veteran campaigner Arie Nijman was caught by an intriguing combination from Ross Black after neglecting his development a move too far. Jackson climbed back up to 50% when his 4-pawns attack subdued Tim Rains, but Gold was not so successful with his piece sacrifice against Gloistein and caught the bye for the following round. Leading Scores: Lane 6; Johansen 5½; Chan, R. Smith & Dowden 5; Wansink, Koop, Fraemohs & Lukey 4½.

Round 7.2, Lane, Gary - Wansink, Robert

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.c4 dxc4 6.Bxc4 e6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Bg5 Qb6 9.Qd2 Qb4 10.Bb3 a5 11.Nge2 a4 12.Bd1 a3 13.b3 Nd5 14.Rc1 Nxc3 15.Nxc3 Nd7 16.O-O Nb6 17.Qf4 Qa5 18.Bc2 Bxc2 19.Rxc2 Nd5 20.Qg3 Nxc3 21.Rxc3 Qd5 22.Qf4 Bb4 23.Rf3 Rf8 24.Rc1 b5 25.Qe3 Ra7 26.Qd3 Rh8 27.Rg3 Kf8 28.Rf3 Ke8 29.Rg3 Kf8 30.Qc2 Ra6 31.Bd2 Be7 32.Rc3 Qxd4 33.Be3 Qxe5 34. Rxc6 Rxc6 35.Qxc6 g6 36.Qd7 Bf6? (36.... Qd6) 37.Rc7 Qa1+ 38.Bc1 Rh7 39.Rc8+ Kg7

40.Qe8 Bc3 41.Qf8+ Kf6 42.Qd8+ Kg7
43.Qg8+ Kf6 44.Rxc3 Qxc3 45.Bg5+ Kf5
46.Qxh7 f6 47.Be3 Qa1+ 48.Kh2 Qxa2
49.Qc7 g5 50.hxg5 fxg5 51.Bd4 Qxb3
52.f3 1-0

Round 7.10, Black, Ross - Nijman, Arie
1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Bg4
5.d3 Nd4 6.Be3 Nxf3+ 7.gxf3 Bh5 8.Qe2
c6 9.Qf1 Bxf3 10.Rg1 Bh5 11.Qh3 Bg6
12.O-O-O b5 13.Bb3 a5 14.Rxg6! fxg6
15.Bxg8 Qd7 16.Be6 Qb7 17.Rg1 a4
18.Rxg6 b4 19.Nb1 b3 20.cxb3 d5 21.Rg2
axb3 22.a3 d4 23.Bd2 Ra7 24.Qh5+ g6
25.Qxe5 Bg7 26.Bd7+ 1-0

Round 8

Lane ventured a pawn sacrifice as black in an Exchange Slav to beat Bob Smith and retain his lead. Johansen was made to work hard by Koop in a queen and opposite coloured bishop ending, but eventually ground out the full point. The gap to third widened to a point when Dowden and Chan drew their game, allowing Wansink and Lukey to join them with relatively easy wins. Wansink's piece sacrifice on move 4 seemed to surprize Fraemohs so much he immediately blundered and resigned the next move - full game below. Lukey received the down-float to Duffield, and soon White's overcautious play lead to his four minor pieces' mobility being restricted to one square between them! Milligan won well from Edward Rains to join Smith on +2 and lead the U2100 grade. Black beat Dolejs in another tactical flurry, while Gloistein and Brockway drew to join Duffield in leading the U1800 grade, as did Nicholls with a good win over Nijman. Leading Scores: Lane 7; Johansen 6½; Chan, Dowden, Wansink & Lukey 5½, R.

Smith & Milligan 5.

Round 8.1, Smith, Robert - Lane, Gary
(Notes by Quentin Johnson)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 exd5 4.Nc3 Nc6
5.Bf4 e5! The Exchange Slav Defence is not known for offering Black much scope for dynamic play. But with this pawn sacrifice Lane manages to inject some life.
6.Bxe5 Nxe5 7.dxe5 d4 8.Qa4+?!
Keeping the extra material is possibly overambitious and leads to a big deficit in development for White. The more circumspect 8.Ne4 has lead White to give back two pawns for development after 8... Qb6 9.Nf3 Qxb2 10.Rb1 Bb4+ 11.Ned2 Bxd2 12.Nxd2 Qxa2 in a couple of grandmaster games.

8... b5 9.Nxb5 Bd7 10.Qa6 Qb8 11.a4
Not 11.Nxd4? Qb4+ winning the knight.

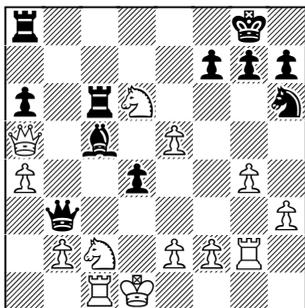
11... Bb4+ 12.Kd1 Nh6 13.h3
Although two pawns up, White's queen is hemmed in and he has problems developing his pieces. The text may be the best way to contain Black's threats while gradually unravelling his kingside. 13 Nf3? Ng4 is clearly bad, 13 Nxd4? Bc5 too dangerous, while 13.Rc1 0-0 14.Nc7? Ng4 15.Nh3 Be1! shows that White can't take Black's threats lightly. **13...0-0 14.Nf3 Rc8!**

The c-file is more important than defending the d-pawn, which White has no time to take without exposing himself to attack.
15.Rc1 Bc5 16.g4! Restricting the black knight as well as creating potential threats down the long diagonal, to which Black has to turn his immediate attention.

16... Be6 17.Bg2 Bd5 18.Rg1 Rc6 19.Qa5
Here White had a chance to simply matters by giving up his queen: 19 Qxc6!? Bxc6 20 Rxc5 a6 21 Rxc6 axb5 22 Kc2 bxa4 23 Nxd4 Qxe5 with full material compensation for the queen and active

pieces, though his exposed king makes it less attractive. **19... Qb7!** Black achieves nothing with the immediate forcing line **19... a6?! 20.Nfxd4 Bxd4 21.Nxd4 Qxb2 22.Rxc6 Qxd4+ 23.Qd2 Qxf2 24.Qxd5 Qxg1+ 25.Kd2**, so he improves his queen position and tightens the screws. **20.Ne1?!**

The release of tension on the long diagonal frees the Black pieces to attack the white king, but White is so tied up he has few choices. Possibly the only chance was the fiendish variation **20.Nfxd4! Bxd4 21.Rxc6 Bxg2! 22.Rxh6!?** (or **22.Rd6 Bb6 23.Qd2 Bxh3 24.f3** trying to contain the black pieces) **gxh6 23.Nxd4 Qxb2 24.Nf5! Qb1+ 25.Kd2 Qxg1 26.Nxh6+ Kh8 27.e6! Qxf2! 28.Qg5 Qd4+ 29.Ke1 Qb4+ 30.Kf2 Qb6+ 31.Kxg2 Qxe6** when Black miraculously avoids having to administer perpetual check. White must then retain queens for drawing chances as the ending after **32.Qe5+!?** **Qxe5 33.Nxf7+ Kg7 34.Nxe5 Re8 35.Nc6 a6! 36.Kf3 Rc8** obtaining a passed a-pawn wins for Black. **20... Bxg2 21.Rxg2 a6! 22.Nd6 Qb3+ 23.Nc2**



Relaxing the defence of d3, but the slightly better **23.Rc2 d3! 24.exd3 Bxd6 25.exd6**

Rxc2 26.Nxc3 Qxd3+ also wins material for Black as **27.Kc1 Rc8** with the double threat of mate and **28...Qe1+**. **23... d3! 24.exd3 Qxd3+ 25.Ke1 Bxd6 26.Rg3**
Now **26.exd6? Re8+** leads to mate. **26... Qe4+ 27.Re3 Bb4+ 28.Qxb4 Qxb4+ 29.Nxb4 Rxc1+ 0-1**

Round 8.2, Koop, Thorben - Johansen, Darryl

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 a6 5.a4 d5 6.d3 f5 7.exd5 exd5 8.g3 Nf6 9.Bg2 Bd6 10.O-O O-O 11.Re1 Re8 12.Rxc8+ Qxe8 13.Bd2 h6 14.Nb1 Be6 15.Na3 Bf7 16.h3 Qd7 17.c3 Bc7 18.b4 Bd6 19.Nc2 Re8 20.Qf1 Qc7 21.Qf2 b6 22.a5 Nd7 23.axb6 Qxb6 24.Bf1 Qb7 25.d4 c4 26.Ne3 Be6 27.Ne5 Nf6 28.Bg2 Bxe5 29.dxe5 Ne4 30.Bxe4 dxe4 31.g4 Ne7 32.Ra5 Rd8 33.Rc5 Qd7 34.Be1 fyg4 35.hxg4 Bxg4 36.Rxc4 Bf3 37.Rd4 Qe8 38.Rxd8 Qxd8 39.Qd2 Qc8 40.Bh4 Nf5 41.Nxf5 Qxf5 42.Qh2 e3 43.Qg3 Qb1+ 44.Qe1 Qc2 45.Qf1 Bd5 46.Be1 Qe4 47.Kh2 h5 48.c4 Bxc4 49.Qg2 Qxf4+ 50.Bg3 Qd4 51.Qc6 Kh7 52.Qf3 Qd2+ 53.Kg1 Qc1+ 54.Kh2 Qc2+ 55.Kg1 Qg6 56.Kh2 e2 57.Qe3 Qf5 58.Qf2 Qg4 59.Qe3 Bd5 60.Qd3+ Be4 61.Qd8 0-1

Round 8.4, Wansink, Robert - Fraemohs, Peter

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.d3 Na5 4.Bxf7+!? **Ke7?? (4... Kxf7 5.Qh5+ Ke6 unclear) 5.Bxg8 1-0**

Round 9

The sun finally shone on the final morning, refuting claims about Dunedin weather from some visitors, and necessitating an improvised extra curtain to block the

sunlight from shining in players' eyes. Lane beat Dowden to secure outright first, when the latter allowed his defensive dark-square bishop to be exchanged in a typical IQP position. Milligan's choice of the KID slowed the game against Johansen, but eventually White was better on the queenside, the kingside and the centre. Chan-Wansink was a short draw, both players satisfied with their previous efforts, while Lukey-R. Smith was drawn shortly afterward. This left Chan, Wansink and Lukey sharing third place with Wansink and Lukey sharing the South Island Championship title for 2012. Koop beat Johnson to join Smith and Dowden on 5½, as did Fraemohs, who's connected passed pawns rode over Ross Black's king. This gave Koop the Junior prize and left Fraemohs first in the U2100 grade, followed by Milligan and Jackson, who finally climbed to the upper half of the table with a fine win over Roberts. All the U1800 leaders drew to win, leaving a 5-way tie for first on 4½ between Duffield, Brockway, Nicholls, Gloistein, and Viv Smith who ground out a win over Tim Rains in the last game to finish to join the prizewinners. The DD Smash Upset prize went to Fraemohs for his round 2 win over IM Chan. The tournament was well run by FA Craig Hall, with no disputes to settle and regular postings of the draw in a timely manner.

Round 9.1, Lane, Gary - Dowden, R. Anthony

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 a6 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.O-O cxd4 8.cxd4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Be7 10.a3 O-O 11.Be3 Bd7 12.Rc1 g6 13.Nc5 b5 14.Bh6 Re8 15.h3 Bc8 16.Bb1 Qd6 17.Qd2 Nd5 18.Rfe1

Bf6? 19.Ne4 Qd7 20.Nxf6+ Nxf6 21.Qg5 Nd5 22.Be4 Nce7 23.Ne5 Qd8 24.Ng4 Ra7 25.Bxd5 Nxd5 26.Qxd5! 1-0

Round 9.2, Johansen, Darryl - Milligan, Helen

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 d6 5.e4 O-O 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.O-O e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.Qc2 a5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Be3 Ne8 12.Nd2 f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.f4 e4 15.Nb3 Nxb3 16.axb3 Bd7 17.Qd2 b6 18.Nd1 Nf6 19.Bd4 Qe8 20.Ne3 Qg6 21.Rfd1 Kh7 22.Bc3 Rg8 23.Kh1 h5 24.Qe1 Qh6 25.Qh4 Raf8 26.Rf1 Kg6 27.b4 axb4 28.Bxb4 Ne8 29.Bc3 Bxc3 30.bxc3 Rh8 31.Nc2 Kf7 32.Ra7 Kg6 33.Nd4 Rf6 34.Rfa1 Kf7 35.Rb7 Bc8 36.Rb8 Bd7 37.Raa8 Ke7 38.Rd8 1-0

Round 9.7, Jackson, L.Ross - Roberts, Michael

H
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 O-O 8.Ne2 c5 9.Be3 Nc6 10.O-O cxd4 11.cxd4 Bg4 12.f3 Na5 13.Bd3 Be6 14.d5 Bxa1 15.Qxa1 Re8 16.h4 Bd7 17.h5 e5 18.dxe6 Bxe6 19.Rd1 Nc6 20.hxg6 fxg6 21.Nf4 Qe7 22.Nxe6 Qxe6 23.Bc2 Qe5 24.Bb3+ Kg7 25.Rd7+ Kh8 26.Qxe5+ Rxe5 27.Rxb7 Rc8 28.Bd5 Ree8 29.Bg5 Rf8 30.Bh6 Rg8 31.Bc1 Rge8 32.Bb2+ 1-0

The New Zealand Bid To Host A World Chess Championship – Part 2

By Ross Jackson

Continuing from Part 1, July 2012 NZ Chess

On the evening of Tuesday 8th August 1989, NZCF President Bill Poole, and Michael Fowler Centre General Manager Gillian Houser were summoned to a private meeting with FIDE President Florencio Campomanes and FIDE Executive member and legal adviser, David Anderton. It would be the third challenge of the day for the New Zealand delegates in their bid for hosting the 1990 World Chess Championship. Earlier in the day, at the 60th Congress Meeting at Mayaguez, FIDE had passed, against lonely opposition from Russia, Bulgaria, Canada and New Zealand, rules that allowed for the substitution of championship contestants and a claiming by FIDE of all rights to host city selection. This was FIDE's response to a threat by Kasparov of boycotting a FIDE-run match. Kasparov was considering organising the World Championship independently under the banner of the GMA (Grandmasters Chess Association) - a chess union he had co-founded. In the second session of the day the bids for the rival cities Lyon and Wellington had been presented. Debate and decision on the bids would occur on the Wednesday. The Lyon bid stated merely that it was for the World Chess Championship. Wellington's bid specified that it required Kasparov. Bill



Florencio Campomanes

explained, as he had in the rule change debate, that this was an expectation of our commercial sponsorship agreements. New Zealand's view was that a match where both the defending World Champion, and top Candidate challenger, could be sidelined, was not a credible World Championship event.

Despite this position and the intentions of the rule change vote, Bill's impression was that New Zealand's bid remained very much in contention. The presentation of the bid for Wellington had been far more professional than that for Lyon. The delegates for Lyon were GMs Bachar Kouatly and ex-World Champion Boris Spassky. They perfunctorily read their speeches. Kouatly made emphasis in having a bankers' guarantee statement that had been overlooked, read out. New

Zealand's bid was introduced by a 15 minute panoramic video prepared by a marketing team shown on a large television screen organised by Gillian Houser. She delivered a passionate address. Of the structure of the bids, Bill wrote in his report for the Hillary Commission, "The general reaction to the bids was that New Zealand had been imaginative in relieving the players of the CACDEC contribution coming out of the prize fund, while the French bid was more commonplace. As far as can be ascertained, however, (and in the absence of any precedent of a vote from the floor of the Congress) there seems to have been a 50/50 voting line-up; neither bid had any clear advantage amongst delegates".

If the Federations appeared approximately evenly balanced, a disturbing occurrence during the bid presentations revealed that the FIDE leadership had their own determinations. Bill's report is quoted. "Mr Campomanes took the opportunity of the conference hall being darkened for the video presentation by Miss Houser to take a seat beside Mr Poole in the main auditorium, and to conduct a sotto voce conversation implying that New Zealand should not so much not bid, but that a bid would not succeed, and that strong words would be of no avail. Further that he would arrange with Lyon's Organising Committee that there would be, at Lyon's expense, free trips to the match there for Sir Ron Scott and his wife, Mr Poole and his wife, and Miss Houser and partner."

The purpose of the evening meeting with Campomanes and Anderton was that they intended to persuade New Zealand to remove the stipulation in its bid for Kasparov's participation. The FIDE leaders

were confident that the rule changes allowed no choice but to comply. Bill remembers Anderton's demeanour as being "schoolmasterly". It was an unwelcome surprise to the English judge when Bill pointed out that the rule changes he had drafted to allow for a match to proceed without Kasparov, did not empower the disqualification of a hosting bid that stipulated it required Kasparov. Bill's report is again quoted: "In respect of two particular points, the capacity of the NZ Delegation to rebut the FIDE stance should be reported.

1. The New Zealand stipulation with respect to the Champion is as follows:

"3. The match is to be between the reigning Men's World Champion, Mr G. Kasparov, and a challenger to be determined by the presently incompleting cycle of Candidates Elimination Matches." Any objection to this would be rebutted by reference to the new rules which state (1.41 The Players-first paragraph) "The players are the World Champion and the Challenger. The Challenger is the winner of the Final Candidates Match." The former is particular, it's now, we know the champion. The latter is general, change of champion over time is expected and must be allowed for. The differences are not enough to throw out the New Zealand bid and retain credibility for FIDE in so doing. This evaluation of the matter certainly had not been apparent to FIDE, and there was no answer.

2. FIDE contended that there should be no conditions to the bid in any case; bids are required to be unconditional. Again reference to the new rules discloses(reference 1990 match): 2.16 The

Puerto Rico General Assembly shall decide the choice of applicant and in its selection shall have regard to

- (a) The amount of prize money
- (b) The proposed conditions
- (c) Security
- (d) Climate
- (e) The activity of the national federation making the bid in FIDE
- (f) The possibilities of media coverage

It is obvious that 2.16(b) envisages conditions being in the bid. Mr Anderton contended that these conditions are traditional, covering such matters as accommodation for the players, and similar work-a-day matters in relation to a match. Mr Poole contended in reply that the words were plain language without footnotes, and that if Mr Anderton were to be taken at his word, then at least some footnotes to clarify what is plainly wide open would be a worthwhile addition to the text of the rules. At that point Mr Campomanes signalled with his eyes to Mr Anderton that the line of argument should not be pursued. On the face of it therefore, we could at least put up credible counter-contentions to any line FIDE had as yet thought up to disqualify the NZ bid. But FIDE would be both advocate and judge in its own cause. The Kasparov factor was running against the NZ bid, and so (in the judgment of Mr Poole) was a definitely detectable preference for Lyon.”

The meeting with Campomanes and Anderton continued with circular arguments until midnight. The New

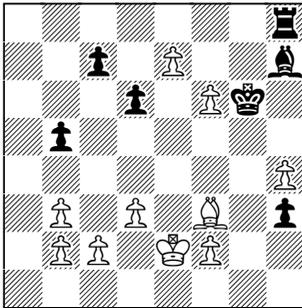
Zealand position was resilient. The next day at noon, debate and decision on the hosting venue would be made. The FIDE leadership’s intention was to manoeuvre the New Zealand bid out of contention. The instruction from Wellington to the New Zealand delegates was to proceed as long as possible. The events of the next day would be a political chess game, the outcome of which would cause uproar at the FIDE Assembly.

To be continued.

Chess Study Compositions

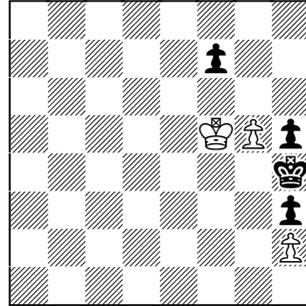
By Emil Melnichenko

Two midboard mates feature in this White to move and win study. It won an award in the Harold van der Heijden 50 JT (2011).



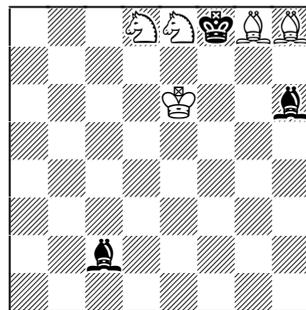
White to play and win. **1.Bh5+** (1.Bc6? Kf7 2.e8=Q+ Rxe8+ 3.Bxe8+ Kxe8 is lost for White)
1...Kxf6 (1...Kxh5? 2.f7 +-)
2.e8=Q Rxe8+ 3.Bxe8 Be4 Black's best chance as alternatives lose to White's material superiority, for instance, (3...h2 4.Bc6 Bf5 5.Bh1 Bd7 6.f3 Ke5 7.Kf2 Kf4 8.b4 c5 9.bxc5 dxc5 10.c3 b4 11.cxb4 cxb4 12.d4 Be8 13.Kg2 Ke3 14.Kxh2 Kxd4 15.f4 Kd3 16.Kg3 Kc2 17.Kg4 Kxb2 18.h5 Kc3 19.h6 Bg6 20.f5 Bh7 21.Bd5 Kd4 22.f6)
4.dxe4 But now Black's pawn cannot be stopped **4...h2 5.Bc6 d5** (5...Ke5 6.f4+ Kd4 7.b4

(7.e5? D5 -+) 7...h1=Q 8.c3+ Kc4 9.Bd5#) (5...h1=Q? 6.e5+)
6.Bxd5Ke5(6...h1=Q?7.e5+-)
7.f4+ Kd4 8.b4 h1=Q 9.c3# 1-0



This is a simple White to move and win study that should be solved without computer. It is easy enough but fools many. Young players might like it. It was first published in Salient (1975).

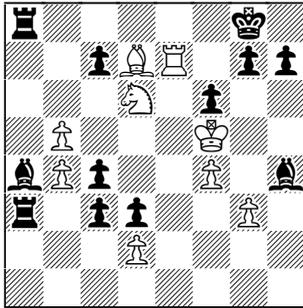
White to play and win. **1.g6** [1.Kf4? f5 2.gxf6= (2.Kxf5=) ; 1.Kf6? Kg4] **1...fxg6+** [1...f6 2.Kxf6] **2.Kf4 g5+ 3.Kf5 g4 4.Kf4 g3 5.hxg3# 1-0**



An aristocratic study without pawns which White wins after careful footstepping. It first appeared in Schweizerische

Schachzeitung (1985).

White to play and win. To keep a winning material superiority, White must save both attacked pieces. **1.Bf7 Bb3+** [1...Bc1? 2.Bg7#] **2.Kf6 Bxf7 3.Nxf7 Bc1 4.Ng7** [4.Ned6? Bb2+ 5.Ne5 Kg8 6.Bg7 Bxe5+ 7.Kxe5 Kxg7=] **4...Bb2+** [4...Kg8 5.Ne6 Bb2+ 6.Kg6 Bxh8 7.Nh6#] **5.Kg6** [5.Ne5? Bxe5+ 6.Kxe5 Kg8=] **5...Kg8** Now White does not appear to have any good moves. **6.Ne6** [6.Nh6+? Kxh8=] **6...Be5** [6...Bxh8 7.Nh6#] **7.Nh6+** [7.Bxe5? =; 7.Nxe5? Kxh8=; 7.Ng7? Bxg7 8.Bxg7=] **7...Kxh8 8.Ng5 Bg7 9.Ngf7# = 1-0**



This game like White to move and win study is for the enthusiast. It is a mating cut and thrust attack featuring sacrifices on both sides. It won an award in the Tolush 100 MT (2011).

White play and wins. **1.Be6+ Kh8** [1...Kf8 2.Rf7+ Kg8 3.Rxf6+ Kh8 4.Nf7+ Kg8 5.Nd8+ Kh8 6.Rf8#] **2.Nf7+ Kg8 3.Ne5+ Kh8** [3...Kf8 4.Rf7+ Ke8 (4...Kg8 5.Rxf6+ Kh8 6.Nf7+ Kg8 7.Nd8+ Kh8 8.Rf8#) 5.Bd7+ Kd8 6.Nc6#] **4.Ng6+ hxg6+ 5.Kxg6 Rg8** The only way to avert 6.Rxg7 followed by mate. **6.Bxg8 Bxb5** Otherwise

7.Re8 mating. **7.Rxg7** [7.Be6? Ra6 8.Bxc4 f5+; 7.Bd5? f5 wins.] **7...Be8+** [7...Ra6 8.Kf7 Be8+ 9.Kf8 Bg6 10.Rxg6 Ra8+ 11.Kf7 Rxg8 12.Rh6#; 7...Bc6 8.Be6 Be8+ (8...Be4+ 9.f5 Bxf5+ 10.Bxf5 Ra6 11.Kf7 Ra8 12.Rh7#) 9.Kh6 mates.] **8.Kh6 Bxg3** Decoys the White rook by threatening mate. [8...Ra6 9.Bxc4 f5+ 10.Bxa6 Bf6 11.Rxc7 Kg8 (11...cxd2 12.Bc4 d1Q 13.Rh7#) 12.dxc3 leaves Black lost.] **9.Rxg3 Ra1** [9...Ra6 10.Bxc4 Bf7 11.Bxa6; 9...Ra8 10.Bd5 Bc6 11.Bxc6 Rd8 (11...cxd2 12.Bxa8 d1Q 13.Bd5) 12.dxc3 d2 13.Ba4 d1Q 14.Bxd1 Rxd1 15.Re3 White has a won ending after 15...Kg8 16.Kg6 Rg1+ 17.Kxf6 Kf8 18.Re7 Rf1 19.Rxc7 Rxf4+ 20.Ke6 Rh4 21.Rc8+ Kg7 22.Kd5 Kf7 23.b5 Rh6 24.Kc5 Rh5+ 25.Kxc4] **10.Bd5** White guards against mate but Black decoys again. **10...Bf7** [10...Rh1+ 11.Bxh1 Bf7 12.Rg7 c2 (12...Be6 13.Re7 Kg8 (13...cxd2 14.Re8+ Bg8 15.Bd5) 14.Kg6 Bf5+ (14...Bf7+ 15.Rxf7 c6 16.Rd7 Kf8 17.Kxf6 Ke8 18.Bxc6 c2 19.Rxd3+) 15.Kxf5 Kf8 (15...c2 16.Kxf6 c1Q 17.Re8+ Kh7 18.Be4+ Kh6 19.Rh8#) 16.Kxf6 c2 17.Bc6 mates.) 13.Rxf7 Kg8 14.Bd5 c6 15.Be6 c1Q 16.Rxf6+ Kh8 17.Rf8#] **11.Bxf7 Rh1+ 12.Kg6 cxd2** [12...c2 13.Re3 Rg1+ 14.Kxf6 Rg7 15.Re8+ Kh7 16.Re1 Kh8 17.f5 c3 18.Re8+ Rg8 19.Rxg8+ Kh7 20.Rg2] **13.Re3 Rg1+ 14.Kxf6 Rg7 15.f5** [15.Re8+ Kh7 16.f5? Rxf7+ wins.; 15.Bh5? c3 16.Re8+ Rg8 17.Re3 Rd8 18.Kf7 (18.Rh3 Rd6+ 19.Kf7 Rd7+ 20.Kf6 (20.Kf8 Rh7) 20...Kg8 21.Rg3+ Kf8 22.Re3 Rd6+ 23.Kg5 Rd8 Black's pawns are too strong.) 18...Rd7+ 19.Kf6 Rd6+=] **15...d1Q 16.Re8+ Rg8** [16...Kh7 17.Bg6+] **17.Rxg8+ Kh7 18.Ra8 Qg4 19.Bg6+ Kh6 20.Rh8# 1-0**

Oddball News

Chess Boxing Boxes On

In 1992 French artist Enki Bilal published the last instalment of his graphic novel, 'The Nikopol Trilogy'. Featuring a post-apocalyptic Paris where sport reflects the bloodthirsty culture, Bilal invented for his novel the sport of Chess Boxing. Bizarre as it may seem, two decades later this invented sport has a following of at least 250. Many new groups are being established including one in Shanghai and Kolkata India recently hosted a 150 strong tournament. The sport is even thinking about Olympic status. In February inventor Enki Bilal is donating \$150,000 (US) worth of his graphic artwork for a fundraising auction for the sport and that will be preceded by an exhibition match on the Champs Élysées by two of the top chess boxers, Frank Stoldt from Germany and Leonid Chernobaev from Belarus.

Italian Chess Federation Expels Player for Suspected Cheating

The Italian Chess Federation has for the first time expelled a member for suspected cheating. Loris Cereda, who in 2011 when Mayor of the north Italian town of Buccinasco was filmed accepting \$10,000 Euros from a building contractor in an alleged case of bribery, has now allegedly used a camera hidden in a pair of extra

thick sunglasses to dramatically improve his chess in a local tournament. Chess officials acted after complaints from other players and suspect his sudden improvement from 'average' to near International master level was not due to hard work and practice, but an earpiece connected to an accomplice with a computer. Loris denies the charge protesting that 'I've never been less than a good sport'

Techno Wizardry and Marketing on the way

European domiciled American internet entrepreneur Andrew Paulson has been given the media rights for all major FIDE events for the next 10 years.

Paulson's aim is to do for chess what Bernie Ecclestone did for Formulae 1. Plans could see players wearing watch like devices that record their pulse rate, blood pressure and sweat level. Even suggested are goggles for players so viewers can track their eyes as they roam the board.

Prize money will be increased and his aim is to negotiate TV rights. There are 600 million chess players worldwide and Paulson was astounded that chess had no branding. He is not a player himself but thought part of the problem was chess was run by chessplayers!

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