

Liberating chess

FOR THE first time in 10 years a separate Women's Championship was held at the New Zealand Chess Congress over Christmas. Thanks to the initiative of the sponsor, Radio Windy, it was a resounding success — and a fascinating new tourney evolved, the "unofficial mixed doubles champs" (!) In fact

this had nothing to do with the New Year's Eve party. Windy's format combined each lady's score with her opposite number in the men's. And the winners were Foster and Green.

Only eight draws were agreed upon in the bitterly fought Women's. Foster and Davies both had 5/5 but

Davies lost a game and was forced to withdraw for personal reasons, so it appeared likely that Fenella Foster, a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Wainuiomata, would take the title. However, on the final day Foster succumbed to the pressure and suffered her first defeat. A point behind, Winsome Stretch nervously

played a combination to clinch the full point in her own game and suddenly New Zealand had co-champions.

In third place, 16-year-old Katrine McCarthy played well though somewhat erratically. Possibly worry about School Cert results didn't help.

Civic Chess Club
Wellington 1977-78

F. FOSTER
(Pencarrow)

W. STRETCH
(Auckland
Women's)

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|-----------|-----|
| 1. e4 | e6 |
| 2. d3 | Nf6 |
| 3. Nd2 | Be7 |
| 4. Ngf3 | 0-0 |
| 5. g3 | d5 |
| 6. eXd5?! | |

This frees Black's bishop.
Better is 6. Bg2

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| 6. ... eXd5 | |
| 7. Bg2 | Re8 |
| 8. 0-0 | Nbd7 |

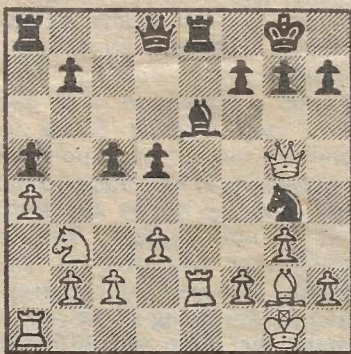
A stronger plan is 8. ... e5 followed by 9. ... Ne6. It was interesting to note the opening repertoires of the players during the women's champs. Foster used the 1.e4 e5 2.d3 system frequently while Winsome used her favourite 1.b3!? with White — nicknamed the "Stretch attack" in the daily bulletin!

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| 9. Nb3 | c5 |
| 10. Bg5 | Qb6 |
| 11. Re1 | a5 |
| 12. a4 | Nf8! |
| 13. Qd2 | Ng6 |
| 14. Re2 | Be6 |
| 15. Ne5!? | NXe5 |
| 16. Rxe5 | Ng4 |

16. ... c4 fails to 17.dxc4 dxc4 18.Rb5!

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|----------|------|
| 17. Re2! | Bxg5 |
| 18. Qxg5 | Qd8? |

STRETCH



FOSTER

This blunder simply loses two pawns. After 18. ... h6 the game would be approximately even, but Black can't try 18. ... c4 as 19.dxc4 dxc4 20.Qc5! Ra6 21.Qxb6 Rxb6 22.Nxa5 wins a pawn.

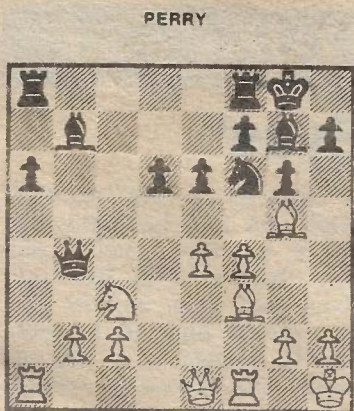
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| 19. Qxd8 | Raxd8 |
| 20. Nxc5 | b6 |
| 21. Nxe6 | fxe6 |
| 22. Bh3! | Resigns |

Resignation at first sight looks premature but after 22. ... h5 23.f3 Nf6 24.Rxe6 pieces are swapped and the win for White presents no problem.

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The introduction of a Ladies' Championship presents a breakthrough in the once staid New Zealand Chess scene. The clusters of spectators were equally divided between the complicated men's games and the open exciting women's struggles. As one onlooker commented: "I feel I can identify more with the women's games — I can actually understand what is happening!"

Sets of the excellent bulletin produced during the congress, including every game from the men's and women's champs, plus selected ones from the premier reserve and restricted rated tourney, are available from the Civic Chess Club Congress Committee, PO Box 2702, Wellington.

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During the NZCA New Zealand Chess Congress



CHANDLER

1978. South Island Champion Roger Perry fell into a thematic trap in our game. His previous move ... e6? was a bad blunder. How does White win?

Solution: 1 played 1.Bxf6 Bxf6 2.Nd5! A well known idea. Now 2. ... Qxb2 fails to 3.Rb1 and 2. ... Qxe1 3.Nxf6 ch Kg7 4.Raxel Kxf6 5.e5 ch! winning black's bishop on b7 so 2. ... Black resigns.

MURRAY CHANDLER

PLAYER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PTS	
1 F. Foster		1	1	0	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	1/2	1	9
2 W. Stretch	0		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	9
3 K. McCarthy	0	0		1	1/2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7 1/2
4 V. Burndrec		0	0				0	0	1	1	1	1	1	7
5 L. Martin	0	0	1/2	0		1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	6 1/2
6 L. Davies	1/2	0	1	0	0		1	1	0	0	1	1	1	5 1/2
7 L. Carline	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	1	1	0	1	1	5
8 G. Jones	0	0	0	1	1	0	0		0	1	1	1	1	5
9 F. Beattie	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		1/2	1	0	1	3 1/2
10 E. Bowler	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/2		1	0	1	2 1/2
11 D. Brightwell	1/2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		1	1	2 1/2
12 M. Boyack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0		1	2