

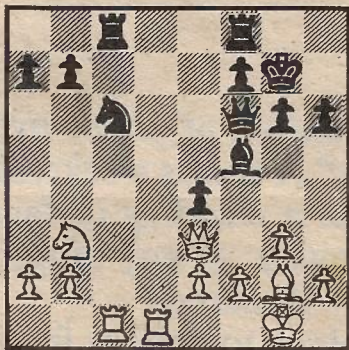
# W. A. Fairhurst

WILLIAM ALBERT FAIRHURST, who died at his home in Auckland earlier this year at the age of 78, was a man of renown in several fields. In chess he gained the international master title and won the Scottish championship a record 11 times, from 11 attempts. In his profession, bridge designing, the Glasgow-based firm of W. A. Fairhurst and Partners has established a worldwide reputation. For his genius in this sphere Fairhurst was awarded a CBE, and many bridges in various countries — including his personal favourite over the Dundee Tay — stand as fitting monuments.

It was in 1968 during a tour of Australasia that Fairhurst found New Zealand to his liking and decided to retire here. In the four New Zealand championships in which he played, in 1970, 1974, 1975 and 1976, he provided further stiff competition for Ortvin Sarapu, our leading player for many years and one of Fairhurst's closest friends. Turning out for us in the Olympiad of 1974, at the age of 70, Fairhurst scored 40 per cent on top board.

During the early part of his career in the 1930s and 1940s, Fairhurst rubbed shoulders with some of the legendary masters of chess, such as world champions Alexander Alekhine and Jose Capablanca. He drew a six-game match with Austrian Grandmaster Erich Eliskases in 1933 and represented Scotland in six Olympiads. It was in one of these, in Moscow in 1956, that he produced the following memorable game. At the time Danish Grandmaster Bent Larsen was a rising star, and despite this defeat went on to take the prize for best score on top board.

- |             |      |
|-------------|------|
| 12. Bx16    | Bx16 |
| 13. Nx16 ch | Qx16 |
| 14. Qd2     | Bf5  |
| 15. c3      | dxc3 |
| 16. Qxc3    | O-O  |
| 17. Rac1    | Rac8 |
| 18. Qe3     | Kg7  |
| 19. Rfd1?   | e4!  |



White should have chosen 19.Nc5 to put pressure on b7. Now the pawn on e4 is obviously taboo (20.Bxe4? Rfe8) and Black threatens to win material himself by menacing b2.

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|----------|------|
| 20. Rc3  | Rcd8 |
| 21. Rxd8 |      |

The trouble with this swap is that the Black rook can now penetrate to White's first rank.

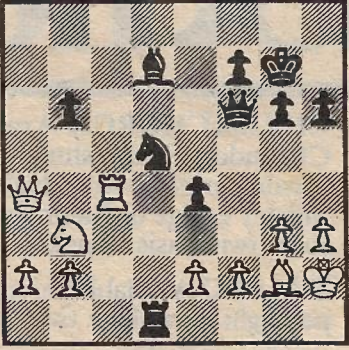
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|----------|------|
| 21. ...  | Rxd8 |
| 22. h3   | Nb4  |
| 23. Qxa7 |      |

The storm clouds still do not appear too dark in the vicinity of White's king, but Fairhurst's refutation of this pawn-grab is lightning quick.

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|---------|--------|
| 23. ... | Rd1 ch |
| 24. Kh2 | Nd5    |
| 25. Rc4 | b6!    |

A powerful "quiet" move, preventing 26.Rd4 and cutting White's queen off from the defence of the f2 pawn.

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|---------|------|
| 26. Qa4 | Bd7! |
|---------|------|



27. Resigns  
After 27.Qxd7 Qxf2 28.h4 Ne3 White gets mated.

MURRAY CHANDLER

## KING'S FIANCHETTO OPENING

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|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>B. LARSEN</b> | <b>W. A. FAIRHURST</b> |
| 1. Nf3           | d5                     |
| 2. g3            | c5                     |
| 3. Bg2           | Nf6                    |
| 4. O-O           | g6                     |
| 5. d4            | cxd4                   |
| 6. Nx d4         | Bg7                    |
| 7. Nb3           | Nc6                    |
| 8. Nc3           | e6                     |
| 9. Bf4           | e5!                    |

Such pawn advances in the centre must always be considered carefully. Although Black gains space he must make sure he will get castled before the pawns are undermined.

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|---------|----|
| 10. Bg5 | d4 |
| 11. Ne4 | h6 |

## ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1