

First first

DAVID GOLLOGLY went to his first New Zealand chess championship in Dunedin over the New Year period, "worrying about coming last". That worry receded when he convincingly beat former champion Paul Garbett in the first round and disappeared as he went through undefeated to finish first equal with Garbett. His feat of winning the championship at the first attempt was remarkable, but quite deserved. Like any winner he had his moments of luck — he was on the ropes for most of his game against Adrian Lloyd until the latter found an ingenious but losing combination — but also came close to winning some of his drawn games.

Gollogly is a 23-year-old medical student at Auckland University and speaks with a slight Scottish burr although he has been in New Zealand since he was six. He said he was aiming to play solidly. "Sometimes I'd look at an interesting move and think, I can't play this in a New Zealand championship." His good positional planning was complemented by tactical alertness and admirable composure in time trouble, even when he accidentally blew the exchange against Paul Spiller in the last round.

Garbett was back in top form, playing attractive positional/tactical games to win his third title. He was more aggressive and adventurous than Gollogly. Two of his wins with a gambit against the French defence are given below. Richard Sutton, another former champion, looked the most likely custodian of the silver rook trophy when he was a point ahead with two rounds to go, but he finished with a draw with Tony Love and a loss to Mark Levene.

Levene and Tony Dowden, who finished second last year, were both very aggressive and prepared to take risks in order to win. Dowden twice went on to win after turning down draw offers even though his positions at the time were inferior.

Final scores were: 1-2 P. Garbett and D. Gollogly, 8½ points; 3 R. Sutton, 8; 4 M. Levene, 7; 5 T. Dowden, 6; 6-7 T. Love and P. Stuart, 5; 8 B. Carpinter, 4½; 9 A. Lloyd, 4; 10 P. Spiller 3½; 11-12 W. Lynn and G. Turner, 3. Two 15-year-old schoolboys, Anthony Ker of Wellington and Ben Alexander of Christchurch, finished first equal in the Premier Reserve tournament.

FRENCH DEFENCE

P. GARBETT	P. SPILLER
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nd2	Nf6
4. e5	Nfd7
5. Bd3	c5
6. c3	Nc6
7. Ngf3	

White plans to offer a gambit. More common is 7.Ne2, with the other knight coming to f3 to reinforce the d-pawn.

7. ...	Qb6
8. 0-0	Be7

Black delays acceptance of the sacrifice. Garbett-Dowden earlier in the championship had gone 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qxd4 11.Nf3 Qb6 12.Qc2 h6 13.Bf4 g5 14.Be3 Be5 15.Rfel Bxe3 16.Rxe3 Nc5 17.Be2 Bd7 18.h4 Ne4 19.Bd3 Rc8 20.Qb1 g4 21.Bxe4 dxe4 22.Nd2 Qd4 23.Nxe4 Qxe5 24.Qd3 Qxb2 25.Rd1 Rd8 26.Re2 Qg7 27.Nd6 ch Kf8 28.Nxb7 Resigns.

9. Re1	cxd4
10. cxd4	Nxd4
11. Nxd4	Qxd4
12. Nb3	Qh4
13. g3	Qa4
14. Bc2	Qc4
15. Be3	Nxe5

This leads to an opening up of the position, to White's advantage. Another possibility was 15...h5, to answer 16.Rc1 with 16...Qg4.

16. Bd4	Nf3 ch
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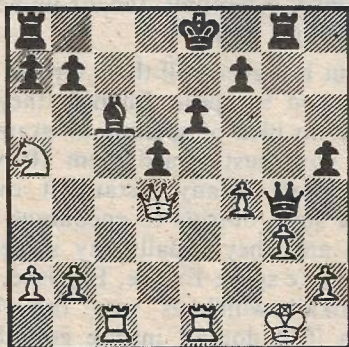
Clever, but 16...f6 was more tenacious. As Black plays, he cannot avoid the exchange of his important black-squared bishop.

17. Qxf3	Qxc2
18. Bxg7	Rg8
19. Bf6	Bxf6
20. Qxf6	Qg6
21. Qd4	Bd7
22. Rac1	

White could use the pin on the e-file to take the d-pawn, but after 22.Qxd5 Bc6 Black's pieces would gain some activity. Garbett prefers to increase the pressure.

22. ...	Bc6
23. Na5	Qg4
24. f4	h5

Allowing a nice combination. Black could hold on for the time being with 24...Rc8 — hoping for 25.Qxa7 Qxf4 — although White would remain in charge with 25.Qe5 threatening 26.f5. Another way to lose gracefully was 24...Kd7 25.Nxb7! Bxb7 26.Qa4 ch Kd8 27.Qa5 ch Kd7 28.Qb5 ch.



25. Nxb7!	Bxb7
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On 25...h4 White could play 26.Re3 and proceed as in the game, or else be greedy with 26.Rxc6 hxg3 27.h3 Qxh3 28.Rc2 g2 29.R2cl.

26. Rc7	Bc8
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26...Rb8 loses immediately to 27.Qf6, but now Black can meet this with 27...Bd7.

27. Qxd5	Qx14
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27...Rb8 28.Qd6 Qh4 29.Qc6 ch is virtually the same as the game.

28. Qc6 ch	Kf8
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29. Rxc8 ch	Ke7
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Because 29... Rxc8 30.Qxc8 ch Kg7 31.Qxg8 ch Kxg8 32.gxf4 leaves White a rook up.

30. Rc7 ch	Kf6
31. Rf1	Resigns

BERNARD CARPINTER

Murray Chandler is on leave.