

# Dive to the top

by Murray Chandler

**T**HE NEWEST STAR of New Zealand chess is 20-year-old Russell Dive of Wellington, outright winner of the 1986-87 New Zealand Championship played at Wanganui Collegiate School. Dive secured possession of the huge silver rook trophy with a quick last-round draw, putting him safely out of reach of 19-times champion Ortvin Sarapu. Sarapu also agreed a short draw in his game, which guaranteed him clear second unless 17-year-old Ben Martin of Dunedin could win against Auckland's Peter Green. But Martin, the lowest seed who had sensationally led for the first seven rounds, overpressed and lost, and had to settle for a still very creditable third equal.

As a teenager, Dive was often overshadowed by other strong Wellington juniors like Jonathan Sarfati and Leonard McLaren. But from the beginning of 1986 he decided to "put a bit more work" into chess, even giving up swimming and soccer. "I did a lot more reading, especially on openings, and I also became aware of how you could prepare for people — looking at their favourite openings and their style of play." During the year he finished first or first equal in a remarkable eight tournaments.

Final scores in the annual championship, again sponsored by Robert Jones Investments, were: 1, Dive 8½/11 points; 2, Sarapu (Auckland) 7½; 3-4, P Green and Martin 6½; 5-6, Sarfati (Wellington) and Stuart (Auckland) 6; 7, Love (Otago) 5½; 8, M Hopewell (Auckland) 5; 9-10, Aldridge (Wellington) and Metge (Auckland) 4; 11, Alexander (Canterbury) 3½; 12, Spain (Hamilton) 3. The Premier Reserve tournament was won by Eastbourne's Antony Ker. Although Ker achieved a coveted international master norm last year, he entered too late to play in the championship section in Wanganui.

My spies tell me that the event was well run, with the only complaint being noisy Trivial Pursuit players at the official accommodation! This reminds me of Margeir Petersson's story, told to me at the recent English Hastings tournament which coincided with Wanganui. Apparently the Icelandic team were playing the Icelandic version of this wretched game, when at a critical moment one of them landed a question about chess. The answer was . . . his own name. It would be as well to remember the name Russell Dive, but I imagine you'll be hearing it again soon anyway.

Here is a bold attacking win by Dive against one of the most resilient and experienced national championship contenders.

**NZ CHAMPIONSHIP 1986-87  
NIMZOINDIAN DEFENCE**

<b>R DIVE</b>	<b>P STUART</b>
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e3	b6



Russell Dive: extra work rewarded.

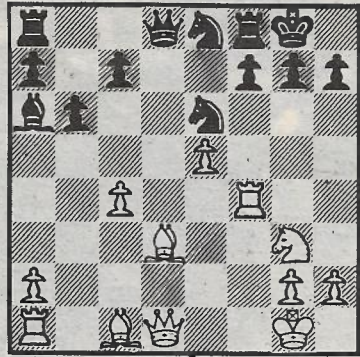
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| 5. Ne2 | Ba6  |
| 6. Ng3 | O-O  |
| 7. Bd3 | Nc6? |

After this opening error Black's game is already very difficult. 7. . . d5! to exchange the light-squared bishops is much safer.

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| 8. O-O   | Bxc3 |
| 9. bxc3  | e5   |
| 10. e4   | d6   |
| 11. f4!? |      |

11. Be3 followed by f4 later is also promising. Dive's uncompromising treatment virtually forces Stuart to grab a risky pawn.

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| 11. . .  | exd4 |
| 12. cxd4 | Nxd4 |
| 13. e5   | dxe5 |
| 14. fxe5 | Ne8  |
| 15. Rf4  | Ne6  |



**16. Bxh7 ch!**

This bishop sacrifice on h7 is a standard theme, but it is not obvious that it wins by force in this position. White's subtle 20th move is the key.

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| 16. . .    | Kxb7 |
| 17. Qh5 ch | Kg8  |
| 18. Rh4    | f6   |
| 19. Ba3    | c5   |
| 20. Qg6!   | fxe5 |

Otherwise there is no defence to the threat of Nf5 followed by Nh6 ch. For example, 20. . . Qd7 21. Nf5 Rf7 22. Qh7 ch Kf8 23. Qh8 checkmate. Now the Black king is ruthlessly hunted down.

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| 21. Qxe6 ch | Rf7     |
| 22. Qh3     | Rf4     |
| 23. Rh8 ch  | Kf7     |
| 24. Qh5 ch  | g6      |
| 25. Qh7 ch  | Ke6     |
| 26. Qxg6 ch | Rf6     |
| 27. Qg4 ch  | Ke7     |
| 28. Rd1     | Qc8     |
| 29. Rd7 ch  | Resigns |

The queen falls after 29. . . Qxd7 30. Rh7 ch Rf7 31. Rxf7 ch Kxf7 32. Qxd7 ch. ■

by VFW

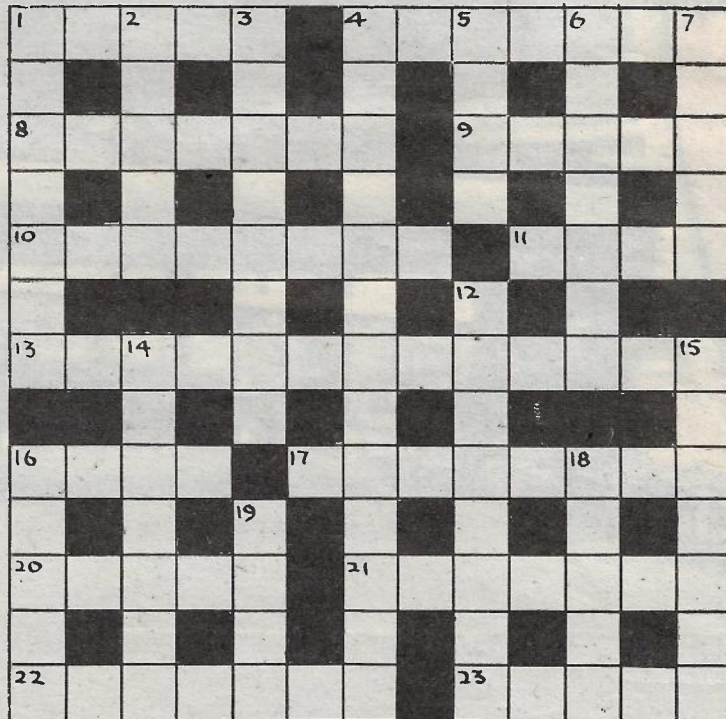
**Puzzle No 2369**

**Clues across**

- 1 & 4. Describes a mad driver on a twisting road (5,3,4).
4. See 1.
8. French port whereby many were saved from drink (7).
9. Dash displayed by Verdi (5).
10. A big darn causing wear (8).
11. Thin in fact but sounds right in law (4).
13. Cricketers' matrimonial venture, but lasting less than half a week (5,3,5).
16. Inside knowledge makes it easy to find the place (4).
17. A filthier consequence of dissipating true mist (8).
20. Essence of a choir (a heavenly one) (5).
21. Something like home? Well, yes (2,5).
- 22 & 23. What a fast speaker should do if proved wrong (3,4,5).
23. See 22.

**Clues down**

- 1 & 16. Expression that might lead to a maiden's trail (7,5).
2. Not far from the radius (5).
3. The start of a day, if almost windless later, grows fainter (8).
4. Symbolic gestures, to all accounts (5,8).
5. Finishes — and objects (4).
6. It's obvious I would briefly take part in a happening (7).
- 7 & 15. Go out, while still in gear (3,2,7).
12. A sidesman gathers nothing from it (5,3).
14. Chatter about a back-stop (7).
15. See 7.
16. See 1.
18. "And now — happier —, Wandering with the great Mother's train divine." (Arnold) (2,3).
19. The last glimpse of a famous cat (4).



**Solution No 2368**

