

# A new name on the rook

by Murray Chandler

**T**HE PROSPECT of qualifying for the Plaza International grandmaster tournament lured a top field to the 1987/88 Robert Jones Investments New Zealand Championships. As four of the players (Small, Sarapu, Ker and Dive) had, however, already been selected for the tournament they perhaps lacked the burning incentive of the others. So a new name, Jonathan Sarfati, joins the long list already on the huge silver rook trophy. The 1987/88 event was the 95th — New Zealand has the second oldest national championship in the world after Scotland.

For his efforts Sarfati also picked up a \$2000 winner's cheque — actually twice the original prize. In conversation with sponsor Bob Jones before the tournament, Vernon Small persuaded him to double the championship prize fund to \$6000. It was rather curious, therefore, that neither Small nor Ortvin Sarapu seemed to make a serious attempt to challenge Sarfati. In the last round they drew their game in only seven moves, while Sarfati won with Black against Olympiad squad co-member Robert Smith. In a Soviet championship the boards would have flowed with blood in such circumstances, and they play only for roubles!

The 12-player Reserve Championship was comfortably won by Leonard McLaren, a Wellington contemporary of Sarfati for many years.

This week's miniature attacking game, however, comes from neither of the two championships. Although it was played in the 67-strong Major Open event, which anyone could join, it won the prize for the best combination of the congress.

**FRENCH DEFENCE**

**W LYNN**                      **I McNALLY**  
 1. d4                              d5  
 2. e4                              e6!?

*Interesting psychology: although the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit (2... dxe4 3. f3) is considered dubious, Lynn is a known expert on it.*

3. e5                              c5  
 4. c3                              f6

*After the usual 4... Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 I suspect Lynn had in mind another gambit*

*line with 6. Bd3, where White later sacrifices the d-pawn.*

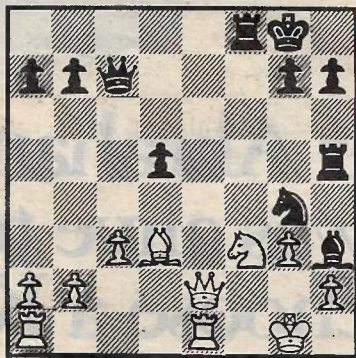
5. Nf3                              Nc6  
 6. Bd3                              Qb6  
 7. 0-0                              Bd7  
 8. e×f6?

*This relinquishes the pawn outpost on e5 without good reason — 8. Re1 was much more promising.*

8. ...                              N×f6  
 9. Qe2                              Bd6  
 10. Be3                              c×d4  
 11. N×d4                              N×d4  
 12. B×d4?                              Qc7  
 13. g3                              0-0

*Black has completed his development harmoniously and threatens a central pawn roller with ... e5.*

14. f4                              Rae8  
 15. Nd2                              e5  
 16. f×e5                              B×e5  
 17. B×e5                              R×e5  
 18. Qf2                              Bh3  
 19. Nf3                              Rh5  
 20. Rfe1                              Ng4  
 21. Qe2



21. ...                              N×h2!

*A neatly calculated exploitation of the weakened White kingside. 21. K×h2 Bf1 discovered check winning the queen, and 21. N×h2.Q×g3 ch 22. Kh1 Bg4! followed by 23. ... Bf3 are decisive.*

22. Q×h2                              Bg4

*Avoiding any complications after 22... R×f3 23. Re8 ch Kf7 24. Re3 (to meet 24... R×e3 with 25. Qf2 ch) although Black still wins easily with 24... Qb6 25. Re1 R×e3 26. Qf2 ch Rf3.*

23. Nh4                              Qb6 ch  
 24. Kh1                              R×h4!  
 25. Resigns

*If 25. g×h4 Bf3 ch etc or 25. Q×h4 Bf3 ch. 26. Kh2 Qf2 ch 27. Kh3 Qg2 checkmate. ■*

**New Zealand Championship**

Player	Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1 Sarfati, J D	Wellington	x	½	1	½	½	½	1	1	½	0	1	1 7½
2 Sarapu, O	North Shore	½	x	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	0	1	½ 6½
3 Small, V A	North Shore	0	½	x	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	½ 6½
4 Ker, A F	Hutt Valley	½	0	½	x	½	½	½	1	½	1	0	1 6
5 Green, E M	North Shore	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	1	½ 6
6 Dive, R J	Civic	½	½	0	½	½	x	½	½	1	½	½	1 6
7 Green, P R	Auckland Centre	0	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	1	1	½ 6
8 Garbett, P A	North Shore	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	x	½	1	1	1 6
9 Martin, B M S	Otago	½	0	0	½	½	0	½	½	x	1	½	1 5
10 Metge, J N	Civic	1	1	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	x	1	½ 4½
11 Stuart, P W	North Shore	0	0	½	1	0	½	0	0	½	0	x	½ 3
12 Smith, R W	Waitemata	0	½	½	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	½	x 3